

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1367

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

July 1, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 1, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 960, S.D. 1,
H.D. 2, C.D. 1

RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION
ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.
ACT 264

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that many low-income
2 households struggle to purchase food due to Hawaii's high cost
3 of living and food prices. The supplemental nutrition
4 assistance program (SNAP), formerly known as the food stamp
5 program, is crucial to providing necessary food assistance to
6 some of Hawaii's most economically disadvantaged residents.

7 The legislature further finds that SNAP is the most
8 effective anti-hunger initiative in the country. In Hawaii,
9 SNAP supports over one hundred thirty thousand individuals,
10 bringing more than \$630,000,000 into the State's economy each
11 year. These benefits help economically vulnerable households
12 meet their basic nutritional needs without sacrificing their
13 financial security.

14 The legislature additionally finds that a study co-authored
15 by the university of Hawaii economic research organization and
16 Hawaii Public Health Institute found that eliminating the net
17 income limit criteria for SNAP beneficiaries would provide an



1 additional \$45,000,000 in benefits to struggling families across
2 the State and expand eligibility for thirteen thousand to
3 fourteen thousand more households, with each household receiving
4 an average of \$3,200 annually in food assistance. In September
5 2024, Governor Josh Green subsequently announced that the State
6 would remove the net income limit criteria to strengthen
7 Hawaii's social welfare system for working-class families.

8 The legislature also finds that SNAP access and
9 participation rates are hampered by understaffing at the
10 department of human services. Improvements to SNAP in the
11 State, including elimination of the net income limit, will only
12 be effective if they are able to be fully implemented, which
13 will require additional staffing for the department of human
14 services. Moreover, since SNAP benefits are federally
15 reimbursable, increasing staff to increase the State's SNAP
16 program's participation rate could generate hundreds of millions
17 of dollars in federal revenue to combat food insecurity in local
18 communities.

19 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
20 funds to the department of human services to enhance access to



1 and participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance
2 program.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,100,000 or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2026-2027 to strengthen access to the supplemental nutrition
8 assistance program by:

9 (1) Authorizing differential pay increases for positions
10 related to the facilitation of the supplemental
11 nutrition assistance program;

12 (2) Establishing new positions to improve access to the
13 supplemental nutrition assistance program,
14 particularly for economically disadvantaged
15 communities; and

16 (3) Undertaking any other programs or initiatives the
17 department of human services deems effective in
18 improving supplemental nutrition assistance program
19 participation rates.

20 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
21 of human services for the purposes of this Act.



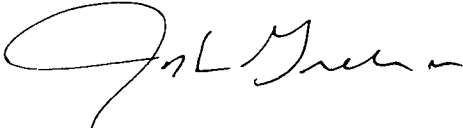
1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.



S.B. NO.

960
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 1st day of July, 2025





GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2025.


President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate

SB No. 960, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2025
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025.



Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives