

JAN 28 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM-EDUCATION PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the federal
2 supplemental nutrition assistance program-education (SNAP-Ed)
3 program, active from 1992 until its discontinuation in 2025, was
4 a critical, evidence-based program that directly improved the
5 health and well-being of low-income families. SNAP-Ed provided
6 essential nutrition education, promoted healthy eating, improved
7 cooking and budgeting skills, and expanded access to nutritious
8 foods.

9 The legislature further finds that SNAP-Ed program outcomes
10 demonstrate positive impact, with ninety-one per cent of
11 participants improving their diets, eighty-three per cent of
12 participants gaining skills in meal planning and budgeting, and
13 forty per cent reporting increased food affordability or
14 sufficient food for their families. The SNAP-Ed program reduced
15 food insecurity and risks of diet-related disease, delivering
16 tangible benefits across communities.



1 The legislature additionally finds that the SNAP-Ed program
2 also strengthened local food systems, supported schools and
3 community organizations. Nutrition education also is a cost-
4 effective investment that prevents illness, reduces long-term
5 health spending, and strengthens families and communities.

6 The legislature notes that at the state level, the
7 university of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
8 resilience and the department of health manage SNAP-Ed programs
9 with a combined 1,570,000,000 budget for 2025. However, the
10 federal SNAP-Ed program has been eliminated from the federal
11 budget, dismantling a proven, prevention-focused program at a
12 time of rising food costs and escalating public health
13 expenditures and leaving the future of the program at risk in
14 the State and nationally.

15 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the
16 university of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human
17 resilience and the department of health to continue funding for
18 the Hawaii supplemental nutrition assistance program-education
19 program.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
2 the university of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and
3 human resilience to continue implementation of the Hawaii
4 supplemental nutrition assistance program-education program.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
6 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
10 the department of health to continue implementation of the
11 Hawaii supplemental nutrition assistance program-education
12 program.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

16

INTRODUCED BY: Mike Gabbard



S.B. NO. 3257

Report Title:

University of Hawaii; College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience; Department of Health; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience and the Department of Health to continue their implementation of the Hawaii Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education Program.

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