
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. This Act is recommended by the governor for
3 immediate passage in accordance with section 9 of article VII of
4 the Constitution of the State of Hawaii.

5 SECTION 2. The legislature finds that the federal
6 government shutdown that commenced on October 1, 2025, and ended
7 on November 12, 2025, threatened the food security of Hawaii
8 residents who receive supplemental nutrition assistance program
9 benefits, as well as Hawaii's federal employees and contractors
10 whose employment and income were disrupted. The shutdown also
11 delayed access to other federal grant funding.

12 During the shutdown, the United States Department of
13 Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, issued multiple
14 instructions to the department of human services regarding the
15 benefit amounts and the timing of distribution for November
16 supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits. To fund



1 these efforts, the department of human services redirected state
2 fiscal year 2025-2026 general fund appropriations from its
3 eighteen programs and received transferred funds from the
4 department of labor and industrial relations.

5 To date, the department of human services has distributed
6 Hawaii emergency food assistance program benefits to 81,399
7 eligible households, which includes 161,549 individuals enrolled
8 in the supplemental nutrition assistance program. To cover the
9 cost for 27,406 eligible households with a dependent child
10 totaling 101,655 individuals, the department of human services
11 can access federal funds from the temporary assistance for needy
12 families program.

13 The legislature further finds that the department of human
14 services needs an emergency appropriation in the amount of
15 \$14,248,126 in general funds to cover the amounts it paid for
16 the response to federal shutdown, specifically: \$11,807,126 for
17 the Hawaii emergency food assistance program, \$2,000,000 to
18 support the Hawaii Food Bank for purchase and distribution of
19 food, and \$441,000 to Aloha United Way for 211 call center
20 support.



1 these individuals can still access health care and to reduce the
2 financial strain on health care providers who might otherwise
3 provide unpaid emergency services.

4 Therefore, the purpose of this part is to provide funds to
5 supplement premium contributions due to participating health
6 plans to reduce the financial strain on health care providers
7 who might otherwise provide unpaid emergency services to
8 enrollees facing financial insecurities.

9 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$16,500,000 or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
12 the purposes of this part.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 human services for the purposes of this part.

15 PART III

16 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
17 provided that part II shall take effect on July 1, 2026.



Report Title:

DHS; Hawaii Emergency Food Assistance Program; Federal Government Shutdown; Emergency Appropriation; Affordable Care Act; Appropriation

Description:

Part I: Provides an emergency appropriation to the Department of Human Services to replace general fund appropriations redirected to provide emergency food assistance during the 2025 federal government shutdown. Part II: Appropriates funds to supplement premium contributions due to participating health plans. (CD1)

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