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

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

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



1 fiscal year 2025-2026 general fund appropriations from its
2 eighteen programs and received transferred funds from the
3 department of labor and industrial relations.

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

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

20 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
21 general funds to replenish the remaining balance of fiscal year



1 2025-2026 general fund appropriations that were redirected to
2 support Hawaii residents' food security, enabling the department
3 of human services to meet its existing obligations and avoid the
4 assessment of penalties and interest.

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
7 much thereof as may be necessary, for the fiscal year 2025-2026
8 to offset costs incurred by the department of human services in
9 providing emergency food assistance to Hawaii residents during
10 the federal government shutdown.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
12 human services for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 30, 2050.



Report Title:

DHS; Hawaii Emergency Food Assistance Program; Federal Government Shutdown; Emergency Appropriation

Description:

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. Effective 1/30/2050. (SD1)

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