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



1 2025-2026 general fund appropriations from its eighteen programs
2 and received transferred funds from the department of labor and
3 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 relief program, \$2,000,000 to support
17 the Hawaii Food Bank for purchase and distribution of food, and
18 \$441,000 to the Aloha United Way for 211 call center support.

19 The legislature also recognizes that some Hawaii residents
20 are facing higher premiums for health insurance purchased
21 through the federal marketplace due to recent policies



1 implemented by the federal government. The legislature further
2 finds that the department of human services needs an emergency
3 appropriation in the amount of \$16,500,000 in general funds to
4 implement efforts to provide assistance to Hawaii residents
5 purchasing health insurance through the federal marketplace.

6 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
7 general funds to:

- 8 (1) Replenish the remaining balance of fiscal year
9 2025-2026 general fund appropriations that were
10 redirected to support Hawaii residents' food security,
11 enabling the department of human services to meet its
12 existing obligations and avoid the assessment of
13 penalties and interest; and
- 14 (2) Assist Hawaii residents with the cost of health
15 insurance available through the federal marketplace.

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



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

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
6 assist Hawaii residents with the cost of health insurance
7 available through the federal marketplace.

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

10 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

DHS; Hawaii Emergency Food Assistance Program; Federal Government Shutdown; Health Insurance; Federal Marketplace; 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. Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to help Hawaii residents obtain insurance available through the federal marketplace. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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