



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

**House Committee on Finance**

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

**In Support**

**House Bill No. 2310, HD1, Making an Emergency Appropriation to the  
Department of Human Services**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of the Governor strongly supports H.B. No. 2310, HD1, Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Human Services. This bill would provide the Department of Human Services with an emergency appropriation to the department to restore general fund appropriations that were redirected to address the federal shutdown last year to provide residents with access to food and reduce food insecurity. While the current HD1 version of the bill has a blank appropriation, we respectfully ask that the Committee consider an amount of \$14,248,126 to cover the costs associated with the department's response.

The Office of the Governor would also like to request an additional appropriation amount of \$16.5 million in this bill, to be expended by the Department of Human Services, to help cover the costs of the enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits for everyone in Hawai'i that are currently using them to buy insurance – to keep coverage affordable for our families, seniors, and children. No family in Hawai'i should have to choose between receiving medical care or having to skip purchasing basic needs because of the ACA subsidies expiring in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure and for the Committee's consideration of the additional appropriation request.



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Honolulu, HI 96813  
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**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Finance  
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 25, 2026  
TIME: 2pm

RE: HB2310 HD1 Making and Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Human Services  
Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure to provide an emergency appropriation to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to replace general fund appropriations redirected to provide emergency food assistance during the 2025 federal government shutdown.

The Federal Government shutdown in October of 2025 resulted in disruptions to the timely distribution of SNAP benefits, threatening the food security of households who rely on these payments for essential nutrition.

We are extremely grateful to Governor Green, State Legislators, and DHS administrators for their support in providing emergency funding in November to ensure that Hawaii families who rely on SNAP benefits would have funds available to purchase food.

The Government shutdown created a crisis of uncertainty around SNAP funding, which is such a vital tool in combatting food insecurity in our state, and around the country. We are proud that our State met that challenge in the best way possible.



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**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

Hawaii showed incredible proactive leadership in stepping up for the neediest people in our state by loading EBT cards with an additional state funded \$250 per SNAP recipient to address the potential hunger crisis that could have resulted from the government shutdown.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure, and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.



## HIPHI Board

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Hawaiian Research Office

Danette Wong Tomiyasu, MBA  
Retired, Hawai'i State Department of  
Health

## HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &  
Evaluation

Community Health  
Worker Initiatives

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health  
Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &  
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 23, 2026

To: Rep. Chris Todd, Chair  
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: Support for HB 2310 HD1, Making an Emergency Appropriation to the  
Department of Human Services

Hrg: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 2:00 PM, Conference Room 308

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Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)<sup>1</sup> and the Healthy Eating, Active Living<sup>2</sup> (HEAL) Coalition **supports HB 2310 HD1**, which makes an emergency appropriation to the Department of Human Services to provide emergency assistance to households participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

### Support in Uncertain Times

During the government shutdown in 2025, where federal SNAP benefits were paused, Hawai'i stood strong with our SNAP community, providing \$250 per person. This essential support was a lifeline to the more than 140,000 residents enrolled in this program.

Ensuring the Department of Human Services (DHS) receives funds to compensate for this program is important to ensure DHS or any other agency has the green light to support our communities when the time comes.

### SNAP Necessity

With over 140,000 Hawai'i residents participating in SNAP, receiving on average \$370 per month, this program is incredibly important for the livelihoods of not just those enrolled in SNAP but also our state as a whole. \$600 million annually flows into our state via federal SNAP benefits, helping families eat and circulating throughout our economy.

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

<sup>2</sup> The Healthy Eating + Active Living (HEAL) Coalition, formerly known as the Obesity Prevention Task Force, was created by the legislature in 2012 and is comprised of over 60 statewide organizations. The HEAL Coalition works to make recommendations to reshape Hawai'i's school, work, community, and health care environments, making healthier lifestyles obtainable for all Hawai'i residents.



The state's commitment to this program is needed now and into the future, especially given the unpredictable support that the federal government will provide.

Thank you for your strong commitment to our families in need and your continued support for the departments that serve them.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nate Hix". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Nate" and "Hix" being capitalized and prominent.

Nate Hix  
Director of Policy and Advocacy

**HB-2310-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:51:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angie Knight	IHS, The Institute for Human Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IHS supports the passage of SB2310, which provides an emergency appropriation to the DHS to replace funds used for emergency food assistance during the 2025 federal government shutdown.



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### **SUPPORT FOR HB 2310 HD1: MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

TO: House Committee on Finance  
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Wednesday, 2/25/26; 2:00 PM; CR 308 or Videoconference

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members, Committee on Finance:

I am Betty Lou Larson from Catholic Charities Hawai'i. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB 2310 HD1**, which provides an emergency appropriation to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to replace general fund appropriations redirected to provide emergency food assistance during the 2015 federal government shutdown.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax-exempt, Community-Based Organization that has provided social services in Hawai'i for more than 78 years, now serving over 40,000 individuals statewide each year. Our programs serve some of the most vulnerable members of our communities, including children, families, kupuna, veterans, individuals experiencing homelessness, and immigrants. Because of our mission to strengthen families and support those most in need, we are deeply concerned about issues of food insecurity across our islands.

With amazement and deep gratitude, we reflect on the State's swift response to the threat that hundreds of thousands of Hawai'i residents would lose essential food benefits during the 2025 federal shutdown. In the midst of chaos and uncertainty, DHS quickly redirected funding to keep food on the tables of 161,549 SNAP recipients as well as 101,655 individuals in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Program (TANF). Wow!

Now it is critical to replenish these funds so DHS can continue provide the services that thousands of families across Hawai'i rely on. This bill would enable DHS to regain its capacity not only to serve SNAP participants but **also to continue other critical services that support thousands of Hawai'i families**. We respectfully urge your support for an emergency appropriation of \$14,248,126 to the Department of Human Services.

Hawai'i continues to face unacceptably high levels of food insecurity. *The State of Food Insecurity in Hawai'i 2024-2025* reports that **32% of Hawaii households experience food insecurity**, and **11% of households went an entire day without eating** at least once in the past year. These figures represent real people in our communities—families, elders, and children struggling to meet basic needs. In these uncertain times, Hawai'i must strengthen the resilience of its food systems and protect those most vulnerable. This bill is a vital step to ensure that DHS can continue to support our kupuna, families and children with the food they urgently need.

Again, we repeat our huge Mahalo to the State, the Legislature and the Department of Human Services for its incredible swift actions taken in the chaos facing us during the 2025 federal government closure. Catholic Charities Hawai'i supports this bill. If you have any questions, please contact Betty Lou Larson, at (808) 527-4813.





**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, February 25, 2026; 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2310, HOUSE DRAFT 1, MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 2310, House Draft 1, MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by Your Committee, would authorize an emergency appropriation of an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal year 2025-2026, for the Department of Human Services (DHS) to appropriate general funds to replenish the remaining balance of fiscal year 2025-2026 general fund appropriations that were redirected to support Hawaii residents' food security, and enable DHS to meet its existing obligations and avoid the assessment of penalties and interest.

This measure would take effect upon on July 1, 3000.

**Testimony on House Bill No. 2310, House Draft 1**  
**Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 2:00 p.m.**  
**Page 2**

SNAP, formally known as the "Food Stamps Program", is the largest federal food assistance program that is currently in operation. It provides food purchasing assistance for low- and no-income people. SNAP helped approximately 40 million persons in 2018, at a cost of \$57.1 billion. Approximately 9.2% of American households received SNAP benefits at some point during 2017, with approximately 16.7% of all children living in households receiving SNAP benefits.

Founded during the height of the Great Depression, SNAP is the cornerstone of our national social safety net. It is intended to prevent mass starvation caused by unemployment and homelessness. SNAP also seen as a way of helping the poor while boosting the economy and ensuring that American's farmers would obtain a fair price for their labors by allowing government to purchase and distribute excess goods in time of crisis.

The HPCA has strongly endorsed SNAP in the past and we continue to urge your support. The continuation of SNAP benefits for a recipient can mean the difference between having to decide whether someone's last amount of cash will go for food or rent or medications or other necessities.

In November 2025, the federal government shutdown stopped the provision of SNAP benefits to Hawaii's citizens. To prevent catastrophic outcomes for Hawaii's citizens, DHS, by Executive Order, established the Program separate from SNAP to provide a \$250 per person benefit for food and groceries at retail locations that accept Electronic Benefit Transfer cards. It is our understanding that this Program was funded by utilizing existing departmental resources to meet this emergency need. As such, the emergency appropriation requested in this bill would help to cover the shortfall caused by these efforts.

**Accordingly, the HPCA respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiipca.net.



*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: House Committee on Finance  
Re: **HB2310 HD1 – Making an Emergency Appropriation to the Department of Human Services**  
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
February 25, 2026; 2:00 PM

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of HB2310 HD1**, which 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.

During last fall's federal government shutdown, thousands of low-income Hawai'i families faced the start of November without their SNAP benefits loaded onto their EBT cards. We mahalo our state for being among the 11 states that stepped up with state funds to fill in that puka and make sure that our SNAP families didn't go hungry during that gap.<sup>1</sup>

In Hawai'i, SNAP plays a critical role in supporting many of our most vulnerable residents. More than half of SNAP recipients in Hawai'i are in families with children, and SNAP lifted 62,000 people above the poverty line in Hawai'i, including 26,000 children, per year between 2015 and 2019, on average.<sup>2</sup>

The average SNAP benefit per household with children in Hawai'i was \$1,098 per month in fiscal year 2022. In 2024, Hawai'i received \$732.5 million in SNAP benefits, not only lifting up low-income families, but also directly supporting approximately 900 food retailers in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please **PASS HB2310 HD1**.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.multistate.us/insider/2025/11/5/state-lawmakers-jump-into-action-as-federal-shutdown-suspends-food-assistance-programs>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbpp.org/research/a-closer-look-at-who-benefits-from-snap-state-by-state-fact-sheets#Hawai'i>

**HB-2310-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:21:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Lynn Nguyen, and I am writing in strong support of HB2310 HD1, which seeks to strengthen support for Hawai‘i’s underserved and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) communities.

Across our state, many hardworking families are doing everything “right” — working full-time, contributing to their communities, raising children, caring for kūpuna — yet still struggling to afford basic necessities. ALICE households often earn too much to qualify for traditional public assistance, but not enough to achieve financial stability. They are one unexpected expense away from crisis.

This bill represents an important step toward closing that gap.

Underserved communities in Hawai‘i face layered challenges, including high housing costs, food insecurity, limited access to childcare, transportation barriers, and workforce constraints. When families lack stability in one area, it often impacts every other area of life — including children’s educational outcomes, mental health, and long-term economic mobility.

By investing upstream and strengthening systems that support working families, we reduce the need for more costly crisis interventions later. Supporting ALICE households is not only a moral imperative — it is fiscally responsible and economically strategic.

When families are stable:

- Children are better able to learn and thrive
- Workers are more productive and reliable
- Communities experience stronger social cohesion
- Public systems experience reduced strain

This legislation acknowledges that prevention and stabilization are just as important as crisis response. It recognizes that resilience is built not only at the individual level, but through strong and responsive systems.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this House Bill and continue prioritizing policies that create pathways to stability, dignity, and opportunity for Hawai'i's working families.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment to serving our communities.

**HB-2310-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:16:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2310 HB MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.

To: Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 24, 2026

RE: House Bill 2310 HD1  
Measure Title: MAKING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES.  
Report Title: DHS; Hawai'i Emergency Food Assistance Program; Federal  
Government Shutdown; Emergency Appropriation (\$)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 2310 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore