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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEDICAID PROVIDERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that because of Hawaii's  
2 high cost of living and food prices, many low-income individuals  
3 and families struggle to purchase food. The supplemental  
4 nutrition assistance program, formerly known as the food stamp  
5 program, is a crucial means of providing necessary assistance in  
6 the purchasing of food for some of Hawaii's most disadvantaged  
7 citizens. In October 2015, 182,226 people in Hawaii  
8 participated in the supplemental nutrition assistance program,  
9 which is 7.2 per cent less participation than in October 2014.  
10 While Hawaii secures over \$500,000,000 annually in supplemental  
11 nutrition assistance program moneys, a 2012 report by the United  
12 States Department of Agriculture ranked Hawaii above only  
13 Nevada, California, and Wyoming in the percentage of eligible  
14 individuals that participate in the supplemental nutrition  
15 assistance program.

16           The legislature also finds that individuals that receive  
17 assistance through the state medicaid program are likely



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1 eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance  
2 program as eligibility for both programs is based on income. In  
3 October 2015, 341,829 people in Hawaii were enrolled in  
4 medicaid, leaving 159,603 people enrolled in medicaid who are  
5 likely eligible to, but do not, participate in the supplemental  
6 nutrition assistance program. If additional eligible  
7 individuals participated in the supplemental nutrition  
8 assistance program, the State could receive more federal  
9 funding, an estimated \$247,000,000, which is ultimately injected  
10 into the economy without negatively impacting the state budget.  
11 Moody's Analytics estimates that for every one dollar given in  
12 supplemental nutrition assistance program funds, one dollar and  
13 seventy cents can be generated in the local economy.

14 The legislature further finds that many individuals that  
15 are eligible to participate in the supplemental nutrition  
16 assistance program do not participate because they are unaware  
17 of their eligibility or of the supplemental nutrition assistance  
18 program's existence. Authorizing health care providers to  
19 question those applying to receive or currently receiving  
20 medicaid about their participation in the supplemental nutrition  
21 assistance program can help health care providers reach out to



1 and educate clients about the benefits available through  
2 participation in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.  
3 Furthermore, authorizing health care providers to report to the  
4 legislature an aggregate collection of data about state  
5 supplemental nutrition assistance program participation creates  
6 a mechanism in which policy makers can better establish plans to  
7 maximize federal funding and fight hunger. Each of these  
8 outcomes will result in the State having more supplemental  
9 nutrition assistance program participants, which in turn will  
10 result in heightened food security for low-income individuals  
11 and families, and more money flowing into the State's economy.

12 The purpose of this Act is to authorize health care  
13 providers to ask clients, and subsequently report aggregate  
14 responses to the legislature, about participation in the  
15 supplemental nutrition assistance program.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 346, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
18 and to read as follows:

19 "§346- Supplemental nutrition assistance program  
20 participation. (a) Each provider of health care under the  
21 state medicaid program may place on medicaid certification and



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1 re-certification forms the following question: "Are you  
 2 currently participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance  
 3 Program (SNAP)?"

4 (b) Each provider of health care under the state medicaid  
 5 may collect and release to the legislature aggregate  
 6 supplemental nutrition assistance program participation  
 7 information; provided that the release of information shall not  
 8 include the name of any individual and shall be subject to  
 9 applicable privacy standards established under federal medicaid  
 10 regulations and the administrative simplification provisions of  
 11 the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,  
 12 P.L. 104-191."

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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**Report Title:**

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; Medicaid

**Description:**

Authorizes health care providers under the state medicaid program to ask about supplemental nutrition assistance program (food stamp) participation on medicaid certification and re-certification forms.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

