
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY FOOD MANAGEMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that during times of
2 economic crisis, natural disasters, or other emergencies the
3 number of Hawaii residents and families who experience food
4 insecurity increases dramatically. Recent natural disasters
5 like hurricanes, flooding, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions, as
6 well as health and economic crises such as the coronavirus 2019
7 (COVID-19) pandemic and subsequent government mandated shutdowns
8 have forced people out of their homes, disrupted the economy,
9 and upset supply chains.

10 The legislature finds that local charitable food
11 organizations including food banks, soup kitchens, shelters, and
12 food rescue operations are critical parts of the food safety net
13 during times of crisis. The fallout from natural disasters and
14 similar crises place insurmountable pressure on these
15 organizations, which are often called upon by local authorities
16 to respond to the increased demand on limited budgets. At least



1 sixteen other states provide some type of government funding
2 support for charitable food organizations.

3 The legislature also recognizes that during times of crisis
4 local food producers such as farmers, ranchers, fishers, and
5 other food businesses can be negatively impacted. Disruptions
6 to supply chains can result in food spoiling before it can reach
7 its intended destination and work interruption, whether by
8 government orders, pandemics, or other disasters, can adversely
9 affect food producer's ability to bring their products to
10 market.

11 Charitable food operations can offer a dual solution by not
12 only ensuring families in need have access to enough food to
13 sustain their household, but also by operating as an economic
14 stimulus by purchasing food directly from local Hawaii food
15 businesses. The legislature finds that there is a need to
16 connect community feeding and local food production to emergency
17 funding solutions.

18 The purpose of this Act is to create the Hawaii emergency
19 food assistance program and, upon an emergency proclamation from
20 the governor or mayor, require that moneys be appropriated to
21 the program in order to fund state food banks to purchase,



1 store, and transport food that is grown or produced in Hawaii to
2 local communities for distribution. This program will serve the
3 State's food needs during an emergency, provide local food
4 producers with a market to support those needs, and keep moneys
5 within the State to boost the local economy.

6 SECTION 2. Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
8 designated and to read as follows:

9 "§127A-A The Hawaii emergency food assistance program.

10 (a) There is established a Hawaii emergency food assistance
11 program to be administered by the department of agriculture
12 during a declared state of emergency to relieve situations of
13 emergency food shortage experienced by families or individuals
14 who reside in the State of Hawaii, including low-income and
15 unemployed families and individuals, by distributing local food
16 to those persons.

17 (b) Funds shall be made available to food banks located in
18 the State.

19 (c) Food banks shall use funds to purchase, store, and
20 transport food grown or produced in Hawaii to be distributed to
21 recipients free of charge.



1 (d) For purposes of this section:

2 (1) "Food bank" has the same meaning as in title 7 U.S.C.
3 section 7501(5).

4 (2) "Produced in Hawaii" has the same meaning as in
5 section 486-119(b).

6 §127A-B Hawaii emergency food assistance program special

7 fund. (a) There is established in the State treasury a Hawaii
8 emergency food assistance program special fund into which shall
9 be deposited the following:

10 (1) Moneys appropriated to the fund pursuant to section
11 127A-16;

12 (2) Appropriations made by the legislature to the special
13 fund;

14 (3) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and
15 private persons; and

16 (4) Interest from the special fund.

17 (b) Moneys in the special fund shall be used to provide
18 immediate relief from food shortages during a declared state of
19 emergency pursuant to section 127A-A. Moneys shall not be
20 expended from the special fund unless a state of emergency has
21 been declared pursuant to section 127A-14.



1 (c) Moneys deposited into the special fund shall not lapse
2 into the general fund. For purposes of this section, "general
3 fund" has the same meaning as section 35-91.

4 (d) Expenditures from the Hawaii emergency food assistance
5 program special fund shall be administered and authorized by the
6 department of agriculture.

7 (e) The Hawaii emergency food assistance program special
8 fund shall not be subject to section 36-27, 36-30, or 37-53."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general fund
10 of the State the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much thereof as may be
11 necessary for fiscal year 2021-2022 and the same sum or so much
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to be
13 deposited into the Hawaii emergency food assistance program
14 special fund.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the Hawaii
16 emergency food assistance program special fund the sum of
17 \$5,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
18 year 2021-2022 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be
19 necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for expenditure pursuant to
20 section 2 of this Act.



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1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section
4 2 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
5 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
6 the new sections in this Act.

7 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

9

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 27 2021



H.B. NO. 1255

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Emergency Management Agency; Hawaii
Emergency Food Assistance Program Special Fund; Appropriation

Description:

Creates the Hawaii emergency food assistance program special fund to be administered by the department of agriculture and appropriates moneys into the fund to feed Hawaii's needy population when a state of emergency has been declared.

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