

February 12, 2024

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Hearing Time: 1:02 PM

Location: State Capitol Conference Room 225

Re: SB2135, RELATING TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Aloha e Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi hui, we are writing in **strong support** of SB2135, relating to the supplemental nutrition assistance program. This bill expands eligibility for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to include any individual or household whose monthly income is equal to or less than three hundred percent of the federal poverty level and appropriates necessary funds.

Increasing the funds and accessibility to the SNAP program is a strong step forward in assisting Hawaii’s low-income households. Additionally, by raising the SNAP benefits ceiling, Hawaii’s low-income families will be able to pursue additional income without the stresses of losing their lifeline for SNAP benefits.

Opportunity Youth Action Hawaiʻi is a collaboration of organizations and individuals committed to reducing the harmful effects of a punitive incarceration system for youth; promoting equity in the justice system; and improving and increasing resources to address adolescent and young adult mental health needs. We seek to improve the continuity of programs and services for youth and young adults transitioning from minor to adult status; eliminate youth houselessness and housing market discrimination against young adults; and promote and fund more holistic and culturally informed approaches among public/private agencies serving youth.

**Please support SB2135.**

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