

HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TITLE 17

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

SUBTITLE 6

BENEFIT, EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

CHAPTER 687

HAWAII EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§17-687-1 Purpose. (a) The purpose of this chapter is to establish the rules governing the administration and implementation of the Hawaii Emergency Food Assistance Program for households that were categorically eligible for November 2025 SNAP benefits prior to November 13 2025, pursuant to chapter 17-680.

(b) These emergency rules shall be effective upon filing with the Office of the Lieutenant

"Household" or "Household unit" means a group of related or nonrelated individuals, who are not residents of an institution or boarding house, but who are living as one economic unit.

"Non-recurring short-term payment" means payments:

- (1) Provided to a categorically eligible household with a dependent child to address an episode of need for food support;
- (2) Not intended to meet a family unit's recurring or ongoing needs; and
- (3) Will not extend beyond four months.

"Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" or "SNAP" means the program that provides food assistance to qualifying low-income and needy households.

"Temporary assistance for needy families" or "TANF" means the federally funded block grant awarded annually to states to provide benefits and services to qualified families with dependent children under the age of eighteen years. [Eff 11/07/25; comp NOV 18 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, 346-14, 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 7 C.F.R. §§273.1, 273.10(f), 273.14, 274.2(a), 274.7, 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-687-3 Eligibility. Households eligible for the benefit shall be limited to only categorically eligible households as determined under chapter 17-680, and their November 2025 benefits are approved by the department prior to November 13, 2025. Eff 11/07/25; am and comp NOV 18 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, 346-14,) (Imp: HRS §346-14;)

§17-687-4 Benefit. (a) Benefits under this chapter shall be a one-time payment in the amount of \$250 per household member.

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(b) Benefits under this chapter shall be considered a non-recurring, short-term benefit for TANF purposes. [Eff 11/07/25; comp **NOV 18 2025**] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, 346-14, 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-687-5 Issuance and availability of benefits.

(a) The department or department's designee shall process and transmit the benefit payment to the department's EBT vendor for issuance of the benefit on a date designated by the department during the month of November 2025.

(b) Benefits shall be issued to the household's existing EBT account and redeemable through the household's existing EBT card for FNS-allowable food items at FNS-approved food retailers.

(c) Any unredeemed benefits issued under this chapter that are remaining in the household's EBT account shall be expunged on the first business day after December 31, 2025, and the household loses all rights to the balance amount that was remaining and unredeemed. [Eff 11/07/25; am and comp **NOV 18 2025**] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, 346-14) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 7 C.F.R. §274.2(a))

§17-687-6 Review. (a) A categorically eligible household eligible to receive a benefit pursuant to section 17-687-3 may request a review by the department when:

- (1) A payment received is not in accordance with section 17-687-4; or
- (2) A categorically eligible household was inadvertently omitted from being issued a benefit.

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(b) The department shall provide a written determination of the review to the categorically eligible household. [Eff 11/07/25; comp **NOV 18 2025**]
(Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, 346-14) (Imp: HRS §346-14)

§17-687-7 REPEALED [R **NOV 18 2025**]