EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-09

(Hawai'i Relief Program)

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i, to support and assist households in the State who may temporarily lose benefits under the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and to ensure that all individuals who live with food insecurity are able to obtain the goods and services necessary to sustain themselves during the federal government shutdown I, JOSH GREEN, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, hereby declare and order as follows:

WHEREAS, SNAP is a federally funded program administered by the states that helps the neediest families and children in the United States;

WHEREAS, in 2024, SNAP served over 41 million individuals nationwide by providing cash assistance that allows families to put food on their tables, avoiding hunger and malnutrition;

WHEREAS, in 2025, an average of 161,400 people received SNAP benefits in Hawai'i each month, including approximately 27,910 families and 62,647 children;

WHEREAS, during the federal fiscal year between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025, approximately \$57,695,553 per month in SNAP benefits was issued in the State of Hawai'i;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) abruptly suspended SNAP benefits for November 2025, citing the federal government shutdown;

WHEREAS, SNAP benefits have never been interrupted by a lapse in appropriations during previous federal government shutdowns, and USDA's decision to

suspend SNAP benefits will cause the first delay in SNAP benefits in the program's history;

WHEREAS, the USDA is refusing to use available resources to fund SNAP, including contingency funding;

WHEREAS, the suspension of SNAP benefits harms families and individuals that rely on SNAP to buy food, harms local retailers that accept SNAP benefits, and increases demand on community organizations that support families struggling to meet their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, in light of the crisis caused by the suspension of SNAP benefits, I am committing the State to doing all it can to provide a safety net for the neediest of families in Hawai'i;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSH GREEN, MD., Governor of the State of Hawai'i, pursuant to my authority under the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawai'i — including, but not limited to, article IX, sections 1 and 3 of the Hawai'i Constitution, and section 346-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes — do hereby declare and order the State Department of Human Services to:

- Immediately implement programs to provide support services for families
 who will be affected by the loss of their SNAP benefits come November 1.
- Contract for the purchase of food to supplement the current supply at food banks, in anticipation of higher demand due to the sudden suspension of SNAP benefits.
- Stand up a call center to provide information to individuals who are seeking assistance in connection with the suspension of SNAP benefits.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Executive Order shall take effect immediately and remain in force unless modified or rescinded by a subsequent Executive Order.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the City and County of Honolulu, this 30th day of October 2025.

JOSH GREEN, M.D. Governor of Hawai'i

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Anne E. Lopez

ANNE E. LOPEZ

Attorney General