

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



JOSEPH CAMPOS II
ACTING DIRECTOR
LUNA HO'OKELE KŪIKAWĀ

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELawe KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

BESSD 26.D0511

May 27, 2026

Mr. Muzafar Makhdoomi
Regional Administrator and Acting SNAP Director
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
Western Regional Office
Food and Nutrition Service
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Makhdoomi:

Re: Hawaii SNAP Food Restriction Waiver Demonstration Project - Request to Amend Implementation Date

The Hawaii Department of Human Services requests an amendment to the implementation date for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Food Restriction Waiver Demonstration Project to April 2027. Since the approval of the demonstration project, the Department has made progress in key areas, including stakeholder engagement, communication and retailer planning, and coordination with the Food and Nutrition Service through a series of productive implementation meetings.

The amended implementation date will provide additional time for retailers to identify excluded products and complete point of sale updates and for the Hawaii SNAP program to manage its limited resources that in addition to being the lead for developing and implementing this demonstration project, are also assigned to lead the planning and eventual implementation of Disaster SNAP in response to weather events that occurred in March and April 2026, as well as the testing, piloting, and statewide production rollout in February 2027 of our replacement eligibility system, the Benefits Eligibility Solution.

Hawaii remains fully committed to the objectives of the Hawaii SNAP Food Restriction Waiver Demonstration Project and will implement in the adjusted timeframe of April 2027, delivering on the importance to realign the SNAP program with its original intent, supporting access to nutritious foods for individuals in need. We appreciate your continued partnership and leadership.

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If you have any questions, please contact our Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division Administrator, Mr. Scott Morishige at (808) 586-5238 or email smorishige@dhs.hawaii.gov, his Assistant Division Administrator, Mr. Scott Nakasone at (808) 586-7054 or email snakasone2@dhs.hawaii.gov, or our SNAP Program Administrator, Ms. Ginet Hayes at (808) 586-5722 or email ghayes@dhs.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Joseph Campos II".

Joseph Campos II
Acting Director