A Comprehensive Guide to Food Resources and Discounts in Hawaii for SNAP Recipients and Federal Employees

****View the Hawai‘i Food and Aid Resource Guide****
(Updates in real time)

Introduction

This report serves as a singular, comprehensive resource for two distinct groups in Hawaii: individuals and families participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and federal government employees. The guide details free food assistance programs, such as food pantries and soup kitchens, as well as discount opportunities at grocery stores and restaurants available across the state. The information is structured to provide clear, actionable guidance for those seeking to stretch their food budget or access immediate food assistance.

The report is divided into three main parts. Part I is dedicated to resources specifically for SNAP recipients, focusing on programs that leverage SNAP-EBT benefits to increase purchasing power. Part II provides an extensive, island-by-island directory of the community-wide food assistance network, including food pantries and meal services available to anyone in need. Part III addresses the unique needs of federal employees, outlining available discounts and critical support systems, particularly during periods of income disruption like government shutdowns.

It is crucial to note that the information contained within this guide, especially concerning the operating hours, locations, and rules of community food pantries and distribution sites, is subject to frequent change. Organizations may alter their schedules without notice due to holidays, weather, emergencies, or shifts in funding and volunteer availability. Therefore, it is strongly advised to **call ahead or check the organization's website to verify all details before visiting any location**.[1]

Part I: Resources for SNAP Recipients in Hawaii

This section focuses on programs and benefits directly tied to the use of a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card. These initiatives are designed to provide significant financial relief and expand access to healthy food for eligible households throughout Hawaii.

Section 1: The DA BUX Program: Doubling Your Food Dollars on Local Produce

The DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks program is a powerful statewide initiative that provides a **50% discount on Hawai'i-grown fruits and vegetables** for SNAP-EBT cardholders.[3] Administered by The Food Basket in partnership with the Hawai'i Good Food Alliance, the program creates a "triple-win" benefit. It makes healthy, local food more affordable for low-income families, supports local farmers by increasing their sales and customer base, and strengthens the state's economy by keeping more food dollars circulating locally.[5] The program has been extended and is confirmed to be available to residents until at least December 31, 2026.[4]

Eligibility for the DA BUX program is straightforward: anyone with an active SNAP-EBT card is qualified to participate. This includes individuals receiving benefits through related programs such as Pandemic EBT (P-EBT) or SUN Bucks (also known as Summer EBT).[7]

The program operates through two distinct methods depending on the type of retailer.

How It Works at Participating Grocery Stores

At major grocery stores, participation requires a DA BUX Access Card. The process is as follows:

1. **Obtain a DA BUX Access Card:** This card is essential for receiving the discount at participating grocery stores. Individuals can sign up for and receive a card in person at participating store locations or apply online through the DA BUX website.[6] The card is not linked to any personal identifying information and does not need to be registered or activated before use.[7]
2. **Shop for Qualifying Items:** Shoppers should look for Hawai'i-grown fruits and vegetables marked with the DA BUX logo on or near the price signage.[9] Qualifying items are fresh produce without any added salts, sugars, oils, or fats. Poi may also be offered as a qualifying item at the retailer's discretion.[7]
3. **Present Cards at Checkout:** At the register, the shopper must present both their DA BUX Access Card and their SNAP-EBT card to the cashier. The cashier scans the Access Card, which triggers the 50% discount on all qualifying items in the cart.[6] This discount can only be applied once per day per SNAP-EBT card.[6]
4. **Pay with SNAP-EBT:** To finalize the transaction and validate eligibility, a minimum payment of at least one cent must be made using the SNAP-EBT card. If the SNAP balance does not cover the full remaining cost, other payment methods such as cash, credit, or debit cards can be used for the rest of the balance.[7]

How It Works at Food Hubs

The process is simpler at participating "food hubs," which include farmers' markets,

Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs, and online order-and-delivery services.[10]

1. **No Access Card Needed:** These direct-from-farm retailers do not use the scannable Access Card system.[10]
2. **Inform the Vendor:** The shopper simply needs to inform the vendor at the point of sale that they will be paying with their SNAP-EBT card. The vendor will then manually apply the 50% discount to all qualifying Hawai'i-grown produce.[10]
3. **Pay with SNAP-EBT:** Unlike at grocery stores, the entire remaining balance for the discounted produce at food hubs must be for using the SNAP-EBT card. Other forms of payment cannot be combined with the SNAP payment in the same transaction for these discounted items.[7]

Statewide DA BUX Participating Retailers

The DA BUX program has a growing network of over 100 retailers across the state.[11] The following table provides a comprehensive list of known participating locations, organized by island.

Island	Retailer Name	Location/Notes	Website/Contact
O'ahu	Times Supermarkets	Available at all Times store locations.	timessupermarkets.com
	Foodland	Available at Ewa Beach, Wahiawa, Pupukea, and Laie locations.	foodland.com
	Shima's Supermarket	41-1606 Kalanianaʻole Hwy, Waimanalo, HI 96795	(808) 259-9921
	Lanakila Pacific Meals on Wheels	Available to current seniors on the Meals On Wheels Program.	(808) 531-0555
	Farm Link Hawaiʻi	Island-wide online ordering and delivery.	farmlinkhawaii.com

	Kahumana Organic Farms	Waianae, Kakaʻako Farmers Market, and CSA pickup locations.	kahumana.org
	Roots Market, Kokua Kalihi Valley	2239 North School St, Honolulu, HI 96819	rootskalihi.com
	Waianae Store	85-863 Farrington Hwy, Waianae, HI 96792	waianaestore.com
	Nanakuli Super	87-2090 Farrington Hwy, Waianae, HI 96792	nanakulisuper.com
	Mākeke Waiʻanae & Mākeke ʻIki	Farmers' markets at Waianae Mall and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center.	(808) 697-3709
Hawaiʻi Island	KTA Super Stores	Available at all KTA locations.	ktasuperstores.com
	Mālama Markets	Available at all Mālama Market locations on the island.	malamamarketspahoa.com
	The Food Basket's “DA BOX” CSA	CSA program with various pickup locations.	daboxbigisland.org
	Keauhou Farmers Market	78-6831 Alii Drive, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740	keauhoufarmersmarket.com

	Kohala Food Hub	55-230 Hoea Rd, Hawi, HI 96719	kohalafoodhub.localfoodmarketplace.com
	Hawai‘i ‘Ulu Cooperative	Online ordering and pickup.	eatbreadfruit.com
	Hawai‘i Farm-To-Car By Ho‘ōla Farms	Multiple pickup sites in Keaau, Pepeekeo, and Hilo.	hoolafarms.org
	The Locavore Store	333 Kilauea Ave #103, Hilo, HI 96720	bigislandlocavorestore.com
Kaua‘i	Big Save Markets	Available at all Big Save locations.	N/A
	Times Supermarkets	3-2600 Kaumualii Hwy, Lihue, HI 96766	timessupermarkets.com
	Kilauea Market + Cafe	2555 Ala Namahana Parkway, Kilauea, HI 96754	kilaueamarket.com
	Hale Puna Farmers Market	9600 Kaumualii Hwy, Waimea, HI 96796	halepuna.org
	Malama Kaua‘i	CSA program with various pickup locations.	malamakauai.org
Maui	Times Supermarkets	1310 S Kihei Rd, Kihei, HI 96753	timessupermarkets.com
	Foodland	Available at	foodland.com

		Kehalani and Pukalani store locations only.	
	Maui Hub	Online ordering with island-wide pickup sites.	mauihub.org
	Okoʻa Farms	Store in Makawao and booth at Wailea Village Farmers Market.	okoafarms.com
	Hāna Farmers Market	2 Mill St, Hana, HI 96713	hanafarmersmarket.org
Moloka'i	Friendly Market Center	90 Ala Malama Ave, Kaunakakai, HI 96748	friendlymkt.com
	Sustʻāinable Molokai	Mobile market with pickup locations in Kaunakakai and Maunaloa.	sustainablemolokai.org

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Section 2: Understanding the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) in Hawaii

The federal Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) is a state-level option designed to allow specific, vulnerable SNAP populations to purchase prepared meals at authorized restaurants using their EBT benefits. This program is intended for SNAP recipients who may be unable to prepare meals themselves or who lack permanent housing for storing and preparing food. Federally defined eligible groups include individuals who are elderly (aged 60 or older), disabled, or experiencing homelessness, along with their spouses.[12]

The State of Hawaii has established the legal framework necessary to implement this program. The Hawaii Code of Rules includes a specific provision, § 17-610-5, titled "Restaurant meals," which explicitly authorizes the program.[13] This rule outlines that eligible

elderly and disabled persons could use their SNAP benefits at participating restaurants, which would be authorized by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS). The rule also specifies that eligible recipients would be identified by a specially coded SNAP card.[13]

Despite this legal authorization, a thorough review of state and federal resources indicates that the Restaurant Meals Program is not currently active in Hawaii in a way that is accessible to consumers. While the program exists on paper, there are no published lists of participating restaurants for Hawaii, unlike in other states with active programs such as Arizona or California where such lists are readily available.[14] The official websites for the Hawaii Department of Human Services (DHS) provide extensive information on applying for and using SNAP benefits at authorized food retailers but make no mention of any participating restaurants.[16] This gap between legal possibility and practical implementation means that, at present, SNAP recipients in Hawaii cannot use their EBT cards to purchase hot, prepared meals at restaurants.

For eligible individuals—those who are elderly, disabled, or homeless—who believe this program would be beneficial, the recommended course of action is to engage directly with the state agency responsible for administering SNAP. They can contact the **Hawaii DHS Public Assistance Information Line at 1-855-643-1643** to inquire about the current status of the Restaurant Meals Program and express their interest in its activation.[16] Such inquiries can help state administrators gauge the need for the program and may encourage efforts toward its full implementation.

Part II: Community Food Assistance Network (All Islands)

This section provides a comprehensive directory of free food resources available to the broader community across all Hawaiian islands. These food pantries, soup kitchens, and distribution sites are the frontline defense against hunger, serving anyone in need, including but not limited to SNAP recipients and federal employees.

The food assistance landscape in Hawaii is a decentralized, community-driven ecosystem. While large, central food banks serve as the logistical hubs for each county, the final distribution of food to individuals and families is overwhelmingly handled by a network of smaller, independent partner agencies.[18] This structure has distinct characteristics. Its strength lies in deep community ties, with local churches, community centers, and nonprofits providing hyper-local access points for assistance. However, this decentralization can also lead to variability in resources and operating hours, as smaller organizations may be dependent on fluctuating volunteer availability and donations. This reality underscores the critical importance of verifying information before visiting a site.

The primary food bank organizations for each county are:

- **Hawai'i Foodbank:** Serving O'ahu and Kaua'i.[18]
- **The Food Basket, Inc.:** Serving Hawai'i Island.[21]
- **Maui Food Bank:** Serving Maui County, which includes the islands of Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i.[20]

Most of these pantries operate with minimal eligibility requirements, often relying on a simple self-declaration of need. However, some may have specific service area boundaries or require basic information like proof of household size to ensure they can provide an appropriate amount of food.[23]

Subsection 3.1: O'ahu Food Assistance Directory

Hawai'i Foodbank coordinates with a network of nearly 200 partner agencies on O'ahu to distribute food across the island.[18] The following table consolidates information from various directories to provide a detailed list of known food pantries and meal services.

Organization Name	Address	Phone	Days of Operation	Hours of Operation	Notes
Aiea 7th Day Adventist Church	99-005 Moanalua Rd, Aiea	(808) 488-9855	Saturdays or by appointment	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Call to set up an appointment.
Angel Network Charities	5339 Kalanianaole Hwy, Honolulu	(808) 377-1841	Fridays	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Serves East Honolulu.
Armed Services YMCA (JBPHH)	100 McChord St, JBPHH	(808) 448-1972	Monday - Friday	8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Serves Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.
Brethren of Christ International	94-133 Pahu St, Waipahu	(808) 676-4673	Sundays	11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	
Calvary	94-1044	(808)	1st	8:00 AM -	

Chapel Pearl Harbor	Waipio Uka St, Waipahu	372-6753	Saturday of the month	10:00 AM	
City of Refuge Church	94-897 Waipahu St, Waipahu	(808) 677-5677	1st & 3rd Friday of the month	3:00 PM until supplies last	
Co-Cathedral of St. Theresa	712 N School St, Honolulu	(808) 521-1700	Last Friday of the month	3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Emergency food available M-F.
First Assembly of God - Red-Hill	3400 Moanalua Rd, Honolulu	(808) 836-2300	On call 7 days a week	7:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Call to set up an appointment.
First United Methodist Church	1020 S Beretania St, Honolulu	(808) 522-9555	Wednesdays	9:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Provides prepacked grocery bags.
Full Gospel Church of Oahu	1680 Kapiolani Blvd F9, Honolulu	N/A	Varies	Varies	Provides food to needy, poor, homeless, or sick.
Immaculate Conception Church	91-1298 Renton Rd, Ewa Beach	(808) 681-3701	Fridays	4:30 PM - 6:30 PM	
Inspire Church	94-877 Lumiaina St, Waipahu	(808) 677-8844	Varies	Varies	Provides food bags during outreach programs.

Kaumakapili Church	766 N King St, Honolulu	(808) 845-0908	Wednesdays	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	
Light And Salvation Church	957 Punchbowl St, Honolulu	N/A	Varies	Varies	Also provides clothing and hygiene supplies.
Our Lady of Sorrows	1403 California Ave, Wahiawa	(808) 621-5109	Last Saturday of the month	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	
Parents And Children Together (PACT)	1485 Linapuni St, Ste 103, Honolulu	(808) 841-6177	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	9:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Located at Kuhio Park Terrace Family Center.
Parish of St. Clement	1515 Wilder Ave, Honolulu	(808) 955-7745	Wednesdays	10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	One bag per family; can pick up for one other person with ID.
River of Life Mission	101 N Pauahi St, Honolulu	(808) 524-7654	2nd & 4th Friday of the month	10:30 AM - 3:00 PM	
Salvation Army - Family Services	296 N Vineyard Blvd, Honolulu	(808) 521-6551	Mondays & Wednesdays	2:30 PM	
St. Elizabeth	99-312 Moanalua	(808) 487-2414	Thursdays	9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	

Catholic Church	Rd, Aiea				
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church	98-939 Moanalua Rd, Aiea	(808) 488-5747	Tuesdays	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Check schedule for specific Tuesdays.
Susannah Wesley Community Center	1117 Kaili St, Honolulu	(808) 847-1535	Tuesdays & Thursdays	12:00 PM - 2:00 PM	
The Pantry by Feeding Hawaii Together	2522 Rose St, Honolulu	(808) 888-0778	By appointment only	By appointment only	

Subsection 3.2: Hawai'i Island Food Assistance Directory

The Food Basket, Inc. is the primary food bank for Hawai'i Island, coordinating a wide network of food pantries and soup kitchens to serve communities from Hilo to Kona and from Kohala to Ka'u.[21]

Organization Name	**Type**	**Address**	**Phone**	**Days/Hours**	**Notes/Requirements**
The Food Basket - Hilo Warehouse	Emergency Food	40 Holomua St, Hilo	(808) 933-6030	Monday - Friday, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	One visit per week.
The Food Basket - Kona Warehouse	Emergency Food	73-4161 Ulu Wini Pl, Kailua-Kona	(808) 322-1418	Monday - Friday, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	One visit per week.
Seventh Day	Food	162 Kapiolani	N/A	3rd Monday of the	

Adventist Church	Pantry	St, Hilo		month, 10:00 AM	
Salvation Army Lanai	Soup Kitchen	219 Ponahawai St, Hilo	(808) 935-1277	Mon (Lunch), Tue/Wed (Breakfast), Wed (Lunch), Thu (Dinner)	Times vary, check schedule.
Hilo United Methodist Church	Soup Kitchen	374 Waianuenue Ave, Hilo	(808) 935-2144	Tuesday & Thursday Dinner (To Go), 5:00 PM	
Malia Puka O Kalani Church	Food Pantry	326 Desha Ave, Hilo	(808) 781-3839	3rd Wednesday of the month, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	
Living Waters Church	Food Pantry	89 Maikai St, Hilo	(808) 959-9524	2nd & 4th Thursday of the month, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	
Grace Baptist Church	Food Pantry	2575 Kilauea Ave, Hilo	(808) 959-6711	4th Thursday of the month, 11:30 AM	Max 50 people.
Salvation Army Hilo	Food Pantry	219 Ponahawai St, Hilo	(808) 935-1277	Fridays, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Bring proof of household size.

Hawaiian Beaches Park	Food Pantry	15-2727 Manini St, Pahoa	(808) 896-8393	4th Monday of the month, 11:00 AM	Puna district.
St. Theresa Parish	Food Pantry	18-1355 Volcano Rd, Mountain View	(808) 365-4221	4th Thursday of the month, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Puna district.
Ka‘u Food Pantry	Food Pantry	92-8606 Paradise Mauka Cir, Ocean View	(224) 209-9404	Last Tuesday of the month, 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	Ka'u district, at St. Jude’s Church.
Salvation Army Kailua-Kona	Food Pantry	75-223 Kalani St, Kailua-Kona	(808) 326-2330	Tuesdays, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Kona district.
Sacred Heart Catholic Church	Food Pantry	55-3374 Akoni Pule Hwy, Hawi	(808) 889-5115	3rd Thursday of the month, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	North Kohala district.

Subsection 3.3: Maui County (Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i) Food Assistance Directory

The Maui Food Bank is the central hunger-relief organization for all of Maui County, distributing food through a network of over 100 partner agencies and running direct service programs.[20] In response to the 2023 wildfires, the Maui Food Bank established 'Da Market Lahaina,' a dedicated marketplace providing fresh foods and essential items at no cost for those directly affected. This program requires a separate registration and appointments to shop.[26]

Island	Organization Name	Service Type	Address	Phone	Days/Hours	Notes

Maui	Christ the King	Distribution	20 W. Wakea Ave, Kahului	(808) 877-6098	2nd & 4th Friday, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Central Maui.
	Faith Family Fellowship	Distribution	420 N. Wakea Ave, Kahului	(808) 244-4992	3rd Thursday, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Central Maui.
	Good Shepherd	Meal (Lunch)	2140 Main St, Wailuku	(808) 244-4656	Every Sunday, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Central Maui.
	Living Way Church Maui	Distribution/Meals	399 N. Market St, Wailuku	(808) 344-3679	Mon/Tue (Dist.), Thu (Dinner), Fri (Boxed)	Central Maui. Times vary.
	Salvation Army Kahului	Distribution/Meals	45 Kamehameha Ave, Kahului	(808) 871-6270	Call to arrange pickup/meal locations	Central Maui.
	St. Joseph Church	Distribution	1294 Makawao Ave, Makawao	(808) 572-7652	3rd Thursday, 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Upcountry Maui.
	St. John Episcopal Church	Pantry	8992 Kula Hwy, Kula	(808) 878-1485	By appointment, M-W-F	Upcountry Maui.

	Hope Chapel N. Shore	Distribution	810 Haiku Rd, Haiku	(808) 575-2650	Every Saturday, 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	North Shore.
	Hale Kau Kau - St. Theresa's	Meal (Dinner)	25 Lipoa St, Kihei	(808) 875-8754	Daily, 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM (M-F)	South Maui.
	Da Market Lahaina	Marketplace	Lahaina (location provided at registration)	(808) 866-5260	By appointment	West Maui, for wildfire survivors only.
Lāna'i	Sacred Hearts Church	Distribution	815 Fraser Ave, Lanai City	(808) 565-6523	2nd & 4th Thursday, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	
Moloka'i	Aunty Jan's House of Blessings	Distribution	200 Maunaloa Hwy, Suite B	(808) 646-0424	Every Tuesday, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	
	Kaunakakai Baptist	Pantry/Meal Delivery	135 Kamehameha V Hwy, Kaunakakai	(808) 553-5684	By appointment, must call first	

Subsection 3.4: Kaua'i Food Assistance Directory

Hawai'i Foodbank Kaua'i serves the Garden Isle through a network of more than 30 partner

agencies, providing a variety of food assistance options from Līhuʻe to Hanapēpē.[18]

Organization Name	Address	Phone	Days of Operation	Hours of Operation	Notes
Aloha Church	4534 Uahi St, Lihue	(808) 651-5894	4th Thursday of the month	4:00 PM - 6:00 PM	
Anahola Beach Park	Anahola Beach Park (across entrance)	(808) 826-6481	Wednesdays	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	
ʻEleʻele Baptist Church	339 Mehana Rd, ʻEleʻele	(808) 332-5906	2nd Saturday of the month	7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Drive-through service.
The Hanapēpē Salvation Army	4465 Puolo Rd, Hanapēpē	(808) 335-5441	Mon, Wed, Fri	Varies	Call for emergency food. Hot meals available.
Holy Cross Church	2-2370 Kaumualiʻi Hwy, Kalāheo	(808) 332-8011	1st Friday of the month	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	
St. Catherine Parish	5021 Kawaihau Rd, Kapaʻa	(808) 822-7900	Every Saturday	11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	
Westside Christian Center	8041 Kekaha Rd, Kekaha	(808) 634-7040	4th Thursday of the month	10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	
St. Raphael's Church	3011 Hapa Rd, Kōloa	N/A	3rd Thursday of the month	4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	

Līhuʻe Salvation Army	4182 Hardy St, Līhuʻe	(808) 245-2571	Tuesday - Sunday	11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Varies)	Hot meals available.
Kauai Economic Opportunity	2804 Wehe Rd, Līhuʻe	(808) 245-4077	Monday - Friday	10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	
Nana's House (Child & Family Service)	9875 Waimea Rd, Waimea	(808) 338-0252	Mon, Wed, Thu	Varies	

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Part III: Resources for Federal Employees

Federal employees, while generally having stable employment, are not immune to financial pressures, particularly in a high-cost-of-living state like Hawaii. This vulnerability becomes especially acute during federal government shutdowns, when paychecks can be delayed or halted entirely. This section outlines food and restaurant discounts available to federal employees and provides a preparedness guide for navigating periods of income disruption.

Section 4: Unlocking Food and Restaurant Discounts

Unlike the broad, standardized discounts available to active-duty military personnel, standing discounts on food and groceries for federal employees are less common and not standardized. The most effective way to access consistent, albeit modest, discounts is often through membership in professional associations or unions that have negotiated benefits on behalf of their members.

Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) Membership

Federal civil service employees in Hawaii are eligible to join the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) as "Associate members".[28] Membership provides access to the "Makana Perks & Discounts" program, which includes partnerships with several local and national

restaurant chains.[29] To receive these discounts, members must typically present their digital or physical HGEA membership card and a photo ID when ordering.[30]

Known HGEA restaurant discounts include:

- **Popeyes Hawaii:** HGEA members receive a 10% discount on any regular-priced menu item. This offer is valid at participating locations on O'ahu (Kapahulu, Kalihi, Pearl City, Waipahu, Mililani) and Hawai'i Island (Pahoa). The discount is not applicable to limited-time offers, online orders, or delivery.[30]
- **Texas de Brazil (O'ahu):** This Brazilian steakhouse at Ala Moana Center offers a discount to HGEA members who show their card when ordering. The specific discount amount is not detailed but is confirmed to be an available perk.[31]
- **Other Restaurant Partners:** The HGEA Makana Perks program also lists partnerships with other establishments such as Big City Diner, Giovanni Pastrami, and Ruby Tuesday Hawaii, though specific discount details require members to check the HGEA portal.[32]

Conditional and Localized Discounts

Some discounts for federal employees are conditional or localized and require inquiry at the point of sale.

- **Hotel-Based Dining Credits:** Several hotels in Hawaii offer government rates for lodging. As part of these packages, they may include dining credits or discounts for their on-site restaurants. For example, the Park Shore Waikiki offers a "Rise and Dine" package that includes dining credits at Lulu's Waikiki, and the Kaimana Beach Hotel offers perks that may include benefits at their Hau Tree or Sunset Provisions establishments.[33] These are not standalone food discounts but can provide value for employees on official travel or "staycation."
- **Inquiry at National Chains:** Some national restaurant chains may offer discounts to government employees at participating locations, but this is not a universal policy.[35] Federal employees should always inquire about a potential government discount when dining out.

Section 5: A Preparedness Guide for Federal Shutdowns

Federal government shutdowns create a unique and acute financial crisis for employees who are either furloughed or required to work without pay. This sudden loss of income can quickly lead to food insecurity, making community support systems essential.[37] The support structure for federal employees in Hawaii is largely reactive, mobilizing during these specific events rather than providing ongoing discounts.

Emergency Food Assistance During a Shutdown

- **Community Food Banks:** During a shutdown, local food banks often expand their services to explicitly include furloughed federal employees and their families as a priority group. For example, on Hawai'i Island, Vibrant Hawai'i's "Aloha In Action" food distribution

program prioritizes households impacted by a SNAP pause and federal employees affected by a shutdown.[38] Similarly, Hawai'i Foodbank on O'ahu and Kaua'i proactively prepares for an anticipated increase in need during these periods.[39] Federal employees facing income loss should connect with the food banks and pantries listed in Part II of this guide, as they are a primary source of immediate assistance.

- **Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA):** FEEA is a national non-profit organization that provides direct financial support to federal employees in need. During government shutdowns, FEEA offers micro-grants—for example, $150—to help cover the cost of essentials like groceries, gas, and diapers. These grants are typically available to full-time federal employees below a certain salary threshold (e.g., $59,999, including locality pay) who are furloughed or working in an excepted status. Applicants are generally required to provide a copy of their furlough or excepted status notice and their most recent paystub.[40]

Other State and Community Support

- **Free and Reduced-Price School Meals:** The Hawai'i State Department of Education encourages families of federal employees who experience a change in income due to a shutdown to apply for free or reduced-price school meals for their children. When applying, furloughed employees should report their current income as '0'.[41]
- **Information and Referral Services:** National and local organizations serve as clearinghouses for assistance during a shutdown. The AFL-CIO and United Way's **2-1-1 helpline** is a key resource for connecting individuals with local food assistance and other social services.[42]

The pattern of support demonstrates that while ongoing, daily discounts for federal employees are limited, the community safety net is designed to mobilize and provide a crucial buffer during acute crises like a government shutdown. This reveals a financial fragility for these workers, where the interruption of even one or two paychecks can trigger a need for the same food assistance programs that serve other low-income populations.

Conclusion & Quick Reference Guide

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of food assistance programs and discount opportunities available to SNAP recipients and federal employees across the Hawaiian Islands. The analysis of available resources reveals distinct pathways to food security for each group, rooted in a combination of federal programs, state initiatives, and a robust community-based support network.

For SNAP recipients, the **DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks program** stands out as the most significant and consistent resource for increasing purchasing power. By offering a 50% discount on locally grown produce at a wide array of grocery stores and food hubs, it

simultaneously promotes healthier eating and supports the local agricultural economy. Beyond this, the extensive network of food pantries and meal services, coordinated by the state's major food banks, serves as the primary source for free, supplemental food for anyone experiencing food insecurity.

For federal employees, the landscape is different. Standing, everyday discounts on food and groceries are not widespread and are best accessed through membership in organizations like the **Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA)**. The most critical resources for this group are the emergency support systems that activate during federal government shutdowns. Organizations like the Federal Employee Education and Assistance Fund (FEEA) and Hawaii's local food banks recognize the acute financial distress caused by furloughs and provide targeted aid, including grants and prioritized access to food distributions.

The information compiled underscores the vital importance of verifying details, as the operations of community-based services can change. The following consolidated list of statewide contacts serves as a quick reference for accessing the primary organizations and information lines mentioned throughout this report.

Consolidated Statewide Contacts

- **Aloha United Way (Statewide Information & Referral):** Dial 2-1-1
- **DHS Public Assistance Information Line (SNAP & Financial Aid Questions):** 1-855-643-1643
- **Hawai'i Foodbank (O'ahu & Kaua'i):**
  - O'ahu Phone: (808) 836-3600
  - Kaua'i Phone: (808) 482-2224
  - Website: hawaiifoodbank.org
- **The Food Basket, Inc. (Hawai'i Island):**
  - Phone: (808) 933-6030
  - Website: hawaiifoodbasket.org
- **Maui Food Bank (Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i):**
  - Phone: (808) 243-9500
  - Website: mauifoodbank.org
- **DA BUX Double Up Food Bucks Program:**
  - Website: dabux.org

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