

Overview of SNAP Policy: Hawaii’s adoption of flexibilities under Broad-Based Categorical Eligibility (BBCE) for SNAP receipt has expanded eligibility for food stamps to more families. Importantly, **extending the gross income limit to 200% FPL** effectively reduces benefit cliffs for working parents as they earn higher incomes. Since the state has also **eliminated its asset test**, families applying for SNAP can retain their savings and still receive nutritional assistance – an important determinant for economic mobility.

Providing families that are losing access to TANF cash assistance with transitional SNAP benefit assistance for several months offers more consistent support to low-income families through a critical period of acute need.

Hawaii also **offers online services for its initial application, change reporting, and renewal of SNAP benefits**, thereby easing the administrative burdens that can limit families from accessing nutritional support even when they are eligible, as seen in other states.

Assessment of SNAP Policy: Treating child support payments to non-household members as income exclusions rather than deductions would expand eligibility to more families.

The state could also consider **extending recertification periods to twelve months for all households with children** and **simplifying income reporting requirements**. Hawaii could also support more families by fully **lifting the lifetime ban on eligibility for those convicted of drug-related felonies** and **using state funds to provide SNAP to immigrant households with children who are ineligible under federal regulations**. This would benefit young children’s development and support economic security, particularly for newly-arrived families.¹

¹ For research detailing effects of some state-level policies and administrative practices on children and families, see <https://www.nccp.org/ec-profiles-pes-policies-related-research-and-resources/#parenting>.

Hawaii's Food Stamps (SNAP) Policy		
WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR FOOD STAMPS?		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Gross income limit How much can family members earn while being eligible?	\$4,948/month (or 200% FPL for a Hawaii family of three in 2024).	N/A
Asset Limit How many assets can families retain in savings while still being eligible for food stamps?	There is no limit on savings for families that are BBCE-eligible.	N/A
Transitional Benefit Alternative Does Hawaii provide families who are losing TANF cash assistance with automatic SNAP eligibility for a few months?	Yes.	N/A
* Current administrative guidelines may present different income amounts depending on when updates to the current federal poverty guidelines are implemented.		
ADDITIONAL RULES AND RESTRICTIONS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
Treatment of child support payments to non-household members Does Hawaii treat child support payments to non-household members as an income exclusion instead of a deduction?	No.	Enable more families to qualify for SNAP by treating child support payments as income exclusions in the eligibility process (e.g., Washington and Colorado).
Lifting drug felony bans Are persons convicted of drug-related felonies eligible for nutritional assistance?	Hawaii has modified its ban to provide access to those who are complying with treatment.	Consider fully eliminating the ban on those convicted of drug-related felonies, as other

		states have done (e.g., California, Washington).
<p>Extending eligibility to some federally ineligible noncitizens using state assistance programs</p> <p>Has Hawaii extended SNAP eligibility to immigrants who are ineligible for SNAP under federal guidelines?</p>	No.	<p>Provide nutritional assistance to newly-arrived families in which parents are awaiting work authorization (e.g., Illinois, Maine, and Minnesota).</p>
ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS		
Flexibility	Current policy	Potential improvement
<p>Less frequent recertification periods</p> <p>Has Hawaii extended the recertification period to 12 months for all recipients?</p>	No.	<p>Extend recertification periods to 12 months for all families reduce administration costs for working parents, as many other states have done (e.g., Washington, Alaska).</p>
<p>Online services for all application processes</p> <p>Does Hawaii offer online services for its initial benefit application, reporting of changes, and renewal?</p>	Services are provided online for the initial SNAP application and renewal process, but not for reporting income changes.	<p>Consider providing online income reporting services to recipients to streamline SNAP processes for parents, as many states have done (e.g., California).</p>