OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR STATE OF HAWAII

SIXTH EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION RELATED TO SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of Hawaii, to provide relief for disaster damages, losses, and suffering, and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people, I, JOSHUA GREEN, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawaii, hereby determine, designate and proclaim as follows:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), emergency powers are conferred on the Governor of the State of Hawaii to respond to disasters or emergencies, to maintain the strength, resources, and economic life of the community, and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, on March 24, 2022, May 23, 2022, and July 22, 2022, September 19, 2022, and November 17, 2022, Emergency Proclamations were issued relating to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) that declared an emergency created by food insecurity for the families of Hawaii;

WHEREAS, the federal SNAP emergency supplemental payments to Hawaii residents continue to be significant; for the month of December 2022, 83,395 families (156,390 individuals) received additional benefits of \$16,967,311 in federally authorized SNAP emergency allotments to help address food needs during the state and national public health emergency periods;

WHEREAS, these individuals continue to find themselves suffering from food insecurity as they struggle to provide food for themselves and their families due to the effects of the pandemic coupled with the continued increase in the cost of daily living – groceries, child care, transportation, and utility costs as record inflation rates climb along with the unprecedented hike in gas prices;

WHEREAS, without the additional federal SNAP emergency allotments, families suffering from food insecurity may not be able to adequately feed their families;

WHEREAS, the imminent danger or threat to the health, safety, and welfare of the families of Hawaii caused by food insecurity continues to constitute an emergency under section 127A-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSHUA GREEN, M.D., Governor of the State of Hawaii, hereby determine that an emergency or disaster contemplated by section 127A-14, HRS, continues in the State of Hawaii, and do hereby declare the existence of a state of emergency for the limited purpose of administering the available SNAP emergency allotment relief to alleviate food insecurity for individuals and families during the national public health emergency.

I FURTHER DECLARE that the disaster emergency relief period shall continue through March 27, 2023, or until terminated or superseded by a separate proclamation, or until the national public health emergency period related to the COVID-19 pandemic terminates, or until the federal funding for this purpose under the public health emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic is no longer available, whichever shall occur first.

Done at the State Capitol, this <u>13</u>th day of January 2023.

Joshua Green, M.D. Governor of Hawaii

APPROVED:

Anne E. Lopez Attorney General State of Hawaii