



## RESOLUTION

URGING THE MAYOR TO USE FUNDS APPROPRIATED FOR THE SUMMER FUN PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FOOD TO CHILDREN IN NEED TO HELP MITIGATE THE SEVERE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, due to the outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a novel coronavirus commonly known as COVID-19, the Governor on March 4, 2020 issued a Proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency in the State of Hawaii ("State") and invoked his authority under the Hawaii Emergency Management Act, Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 127A; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic of international concern; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Second Supplementary Proclamation, issued on March 21, 2020, imposed a mandatory 14-day quarantine on all persons, including both returning residents and out-of-state visitors, entering Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor issued Emergency Order No. 2020-02 on March 22, 2020, and the Governor issued a Third Supplementary Proclamation on March 23, 2020, both of which required all residents to remain at home except to engage in specified essential businesses and activities; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020, the University of Hawaii Research Organization ("UHERO") reported that efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus have effectively shut down a significant part of Hawaii's economy because the mandatory 14-day self-quarantine requirement largely put a stop to tourism, and the stay-at-home order for all non-essential workers shuttered many businesses; and

WHEREAS, the UHERO also reported that this "unprecedented pause in economic activity" has had a "profoundly negative impact on Hawaii, with a sharp drop in spending, employment, and income," including job losses that peaked at about 220,000 in April; and

WHEREAS, UHERO estimates that by December of this year only half of tourism arrivals lost to the pandemic will have recovered and only 75 percent of economic activity lost due to the stay-at-home order will have been reversed; and



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WHEREAS, the economic distress caused by the coronavirus pandemic has led to an increase in food insecurity for many City's residents; and

WHEREAS, malnutrition is particularly problematic for young children whose bodies and minds are still developing;

WHEREAS, in an effort to feed the hungry, the City, the Hawaii Foodbank, the Bank of Hawaii Foundation, and the Hawaii Community Foundation formed a public-private partnership to provide food assistance to recently unemployed individuals; and

WHEREAS, this public-private partnership has held two food distribution events at the Waipio Soccer Complex on April 30, 2020 and at the Aloha Stadium on May 6, 2020; and

WHEREAS, at each event, Oahu residents from approximately 4,000 households waited several hours in a line of cars that stretched for over a mile to pick up more than 50 pounds of free groceries, including fresh local produce and other products from local businesses; and

WHEREAS, more of these food distribution events are planned to be held in the future at venues that include Leeward Community College and the Aloha Stadium; and

WHEREAS, various efforts specifically targeted at hungry children have also been undertaken by both the government and private organizations; and

WHEREAS, through its "Grab and Go" School Meals Program at certain public schools, the State Department of Education ("DOE") provides one free prepackaged breakfast and lunch daily to all children age 18 years or younger regardless of whether they attend public, charter, private, or home-based schools, and which as of mid-April had provided more than 360,000 meals to needy children; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA of Honolulu, in partnership with Kapiolani Community College and the Hawaii Appleseed Center, is also providing free prepackaged meals to children; and

WHEREAS, although these programs have been critical over the past months in ensuring nutrition for Oahu youth, it is unknown whether, and for how long, these programs will be able to continue operation; and



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WHEREAS, the City's Summer Fun Program, which is run by the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"), is the largest program of its type in the State, and typically has served some 10,000 school-aged children each year; and

WHEREAS, the Summer Fun Program runs for approximately seven weeks on weekdays during the months of June and July at over 60 sites in the City and, similar to a day camp, enables children to enjoy a wide variety of activities including arts and crafts, sports and games, excursions, special events, drama, and Hawaiiana; and

WHEREAS, some Summer Fun Program sites qualify for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program and provide a free brunch to all Summer Fun participants under the age of 18; and

WHEREAS, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, registration for this summer's Summer Fun Program, which was scheduled to occur in April and May, has been postponed until further notice and the DPR is now determining whether it will offer this program at all in 2020; and

WHEREAS, if the DPR cancels the 2020 Summer Fun Program, children who would normally have received a free brunch at qualifying program sites, many of whom are from areas that are economically disadvantaged, may go hungry this summer; and

WHEREAS, funding was appropriated for the 2020 Summer Fun Program in the FY2020 Executive Operating Budget Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") believes that the economic disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic is severe and, as reported by the UHERO, likely to last through the rest of this year; and

WHEREAS, the Council further believes that it is imperative that both the Council and Mayor take all possible steps to alleviate the hunger now afflicting many of Oahu's residents, particularly the hunger among children; WHEREAS, in light of the foregoing, the Council believes that one way to address food insecurity for Oahu children during the coming summer, in the event that this year's Summer Fun Program is cancelled, would be to use the funds already appropriated for that program to provide food to children in need; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that, in the event that the 2020 Summer Fun Program is canceled, it urges the Mayor to use funds appropriated for that program to provide food to children in need in order to mitigate the severe economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Budget and Fiscal Services, and the Director of Parks and Recreation.

INTRODUCED BY:

*Ngina Rice*

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

**MAY 8 2020**

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

FILED  
**MAY 8 2021**  
PURSUANT TO RCW Sec. 1-2.5