



Food and
Nutrition
Service

Park Office
Center

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JUL 25 2018

SUBJECT: Hawaii - Waiver to Allow the Purchase of Hot Foods with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits

**TO: Jesus Mendoza
Regional Administrator
USDA, Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
Western Regional Office**

This is in response to the July 19, 2018, request by the Hawaii Department of Human Services to FNS to waive the statutory definition of "food" under Section 3(k)(l) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, and companion regulations at 7CFR 271.2 which precludes hot foods and hot foods ready for immediate consumption from being eligible for purchase with SNAP benefits. The waiver applies to Hawaii County.

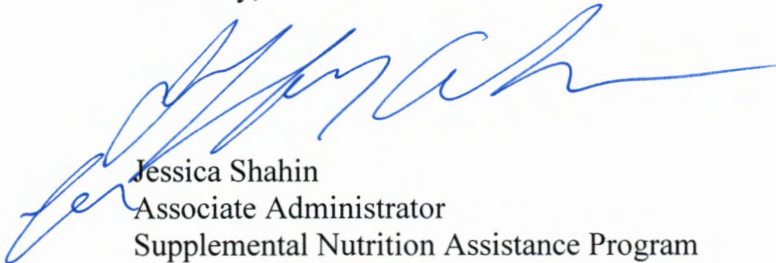
The request relates to power outages, severe flooding and displacement from homes caused by the Kilauea Volcanic Eruption that began on May 3, 2018. The State wishes to allow SNAP households in Hawaii County to have the ability to purchase hot foods and hot food products for immediate consumption with SNAP benefits through August 24, 2018. Many residents evacuated to shelters or temporary housing, and have no ability to store food or access cooking facilities. Hawaii County received Presidential Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance.

The waiver approval is effective immediately and will stay in effect through August 24, 2018. SNAP authorized retailers will be notified regarding this approval.

This waiver of the definition of eligible foods is approved under the authority of Section 412 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, and Section 5(h)(l) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

If you have any questions regarding this waiver or its implementation, please contact the SNAP Retailer Policy and Management Division.

Sincerely,



Jessica Shahin
Associate Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program