



**HAWAII FOODBANK PREPARING FOR POTENTIAL INFLUX IN
FOOD NEEDS DUE TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN**
Nonprofit Urges Community to Give Food & Monetary Donations

HONOLULU (January 11, 2019) – As the partial shutdown of the U.S. federal government enters its 21st day today, Hawaii Foodbank is reminding the community food resources are available statewide for families impacted by the event.

Hawaii Foodbank and its partnering agencies are preparing for a potential influx in food insecurity as residents are experiencing the ripple effect of the government shutdown.

“Hawaii Foodbank is aware that most government workers received their last paycheck two weeks ago and today will be their first ‘payday’ without pay,” said Ron Mizutani, CEO of Hawaii Foodbank. “If families are feeling the impact of the partial government shutdown, please know that emergency food assistance is available. You’re not alone.”

With over 20 percent of Oahu’s population already suffering from hunger, Hawaii Foodbank is asking community members for food and monetary donations to provide food assistance to over 22,000 local federal employees, approximately 1,626 military personnel serving in the U.S. Coast Guard and their families.

Hawaii Foodbank is accepting monetary donations and non-perishable food items. Donations of canned proteins, canned meals, canned vegetables, canned fruits and rice are in high demand and residents are encouraged to drop their donations at Hawaii Foodbank as soon as possible.

“These workers and their families have dedicated their lives to serving their greater community and now it is our turn to provide them with help during these uncertain times,” said Mizutani.

For more information on how to receive food assistance or to make a donation, please call (808) 954-7869 or visit www.hawaiifoodbank.org/govshutdown.

About the Hawaii Foodbank

Hawaii Foodbank, in partnership with the food industry and community, serves as a link between charities and those in need of food assistance including the elderly, families, children and those facing financial crises each week. Last year, the Hawaii Foodbank distributed over 12.5 million pounds of food in Oahu and Kauai, including 3 million pounds of fresh produce. Hawaii Foodbank is a certified member of Feeding America and operates as the official food bank in the State of Hawaii. For more information, visit www.hawaiifoodbank.org or call (808) 836-3600.