



SNAP EBT BENEFITS AT THE HILO FARMERS MARKET

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program... known as (SNAP), now issues Electronic Benefit Transfer cards (EBT), instead of paper Food Stamps. Recipients access their food benefits by swiping their card at the point of sale.

EBT cards, are used successfully at the Hilo Farmers Market each week. By accepting EBT payments, the Hilo Farmers Market provides outstanding value and access to fresh, local, nutritious food. This also offers important support for local farmers and food vendors at the market.

What are some of the quality products that can be purchased through the EBT program?

There are an exceptional variety of locally grown and nutritious, Exotic Fruits, Vegetables and Herbs. And often, at bargain prices such as delicious papaya!

- A selection of fresh berries, such as poha, strawberries and blueberries, loaded with anti-oxidants?
- Free Range Eggs and goat cheese.
- Fresh Fish
- Fruit juice, made with Real Fruit.
- Pure Hawaiian Honey
- Delicious Kombucha tea, on tap, full of probiotics.
- Vegetable and Fruit plants for customers to grow their own food.
- Any non hot-plate food intended to take home, such as bentos and salads.
- How about brown rice and ahi sushi, a nutritious mix of protein and good carbohydrates, made and rolled as you wait.

- Fresh Thai papaya salad, with fresh nuts and avocados, loaded with vitamin C, vitamin E, monounsaturated fats, glutathione and digestive enzymes... packaged and ready to take home.

- Warabi or Fiddlehead Fern Salad, rich in iron and fibre.

These are just some of the highly nutritious products to be found at the Hilo Farmers Market.

HOW TO SET UP THE EBT PROGRAM

The Hilo Farmers Market became authorized as a SNAP retailer by the Federal Nutrition Services (FNS) USDA in 1998.

In order to accept EBT cards, a central Point of Sale, is located at the Hilo Farmers Market managers office, where scrip is sold to customers. An electrical power source and dedicated phone line is required set up the machines and make credit transfers. The customers then spends their EBT scrip with eligible vendors within the market. Scrip that is not used the customer, can be redeemed later at our office.

HOW TO STAY COMPLIANT WITH THE EBT PROGRAM

Vendors are not allowed to make change and we recommend that our customers buy only enough scrip for the day bring their own change.

Vendors are not allowed to exchange money for EBT scripts.

Hot plates or food intended to eat at the market, live animals such as puppies and baby goats, are not allowed for purchase under the EBT program.

The consequences of improper use of the scrip can result in fines and the loss of license to participate in the EBT program.

EBT card numbers submitted to the EBT agency for improper use, could possibly result in losing EBT benefits for the customer.

END