



Qualifying and Non-Qualifying DA BUX Foods

The DA BUX program is primarily funded through a federal GusNIP grant and is legally bound to the grant terms and conditions set forth by the awarding agency, USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). An important grant rule that the program must diligently enforce is the restriction on participating retailers to accept incentives only for GusNIP qualifying fruits and vegetables.

NIFA defines GusNIP qualifying fruits and vegetables as any variety of “**fresh, canned, dried, or frozen whole or cut fruits and vegetables without added sugars, fats, or oils, and salt (i.e. sodium)**...SNAP eligible seeds and plants intended for cultivation and consumption and fresh herbs are also considered GusNIP qualifying fruits and vegetables.”

Foods that do not qualify for GusNIP incentives include “accessory food and beverage items such as powdered, dried or extracted herbs and spices, fruit punch (less than 100% fruit juice), honey, ketchup, and other condiments, as well as multiple ingredient food items that are not primarily composed of fruits and vegetables (such as pastries containing fruit, frozen pizza pies, burritos or fry bread).”

In addition to following GusNIP restrictions, the DA BUX program further narrows qualifying items to fruits, vegetables, herbs and mushrooms grown in the State of Hawai‘i. Foreign and mainland products will not qualify as items that can be purchased with DA BUX incentives. Examples of qualifying and non-qualifying DA BUX foods include:

QUALIFYING these items cannot have added sugars, fats, oil or salt	NON-QUALIFYING
Avocados, grown in Hawai‘i	Avocados, grown in Mexico
Bamboo shoots, fresh or canned	Bamboo shoots, canned with added salt
Breadfruit (‘Ulu), whole or cut, fresh or frozen	Basil, dried
Basil, fresh	Burritos containing fruits and vegetables
Ginger, fresh	Coffee, whole or ground or as a drink
Macadamia Nuts, raw or roasted	Fruit punch, less than 100% fruit juice
Mushrooms, fresh or dried	Ginger, pickled with added salt or sugar
Oranges, fresh or cut, or as 100% juice	Honey
Poi or Paiai	Kombucha
Pumpkin, whole or cut, fresh or frozen	Macadamia Nuts with added sugars, fats, oils or salts
Spinach, fresh or frozen	Oil, extracted from plant-based material
Tea Leaves, fresh	Tea Leaves, dried or infused into a tea drink
Tomatoes, fresh or dried	Tofu
Tomatoes, seeds or plants	Turmeric (‘Olena), ground
Turmeric (‘Olena) root, fresh	Edible flowers