STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
HAWAII CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS
650 IWILEI ROAD, SUITE 270, HONOLULU, HI 96817
PHONE: (808) 587-3600, FAX: (808) 587-3606

EXEMPTION REQUEST:
REGARDING USE OF WHOLE GRAIN-RICH PRODUCTS– SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

Beginning July 1, 2014, all grains offered in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program must be whole grain-rich (WGR), meaning they contain at least 50% whole grain meal and/or flour. The remaining 50% or less of grains, if any, must be enriched.

USDA recognizes that some SFAs have continued to experience difficulty procuring and/or serving whole grain-rich foods. Therefore, per USDA Memo SP 20-2015, SFAs that demonstrate hardship in procuring, preparing, or serving compliant whole grain-rich products that are accepted by students may apply for an exemption for one or more products for SY 2015-16. This temporary exemption is for any type of grain product(s), (e.g., pasta, bread, brown rice, etc.) and for one or more different products. **SFAs that are approved for an exemption from the current whole grain-rich requirement must continue, at a minimum, to meet the SY 2013-14 requirement to offer at least half of the grains as whole grain-rich.**

SFAs approved to offer non-WGR products will be considered compliant with USDA's WGR requirements during an Administrative Review or performance-based certification review if their grain offerings are consistent with the exemption granted by HCNP **and at least half of the grains offered weekly are whole grain-rich**.

Instructions: To request an exemption, return this completed form and written justification or other documented evidence (photos, meal counts, etc.) to demonstrate hardship to Hawaii Child Nutrition Programs via mail, fax or email: Deborah_Sakamoto@notes.k12.hi.us and Leazl_Yoder@notes.k12.hi.us

Check all that apply and list the products that apply to the hardship:

☐ **Product Quality:** Product does not cook or hold well, resulting in poor quality and student complaints (attach pictures, written complaints, etc.) — List Product(s):_____

☐ **Acceptability:** Student acceptance has been poor resulting in complaints and increased plate waste (attach student surveys, etc.) — List Product(s):_____

☐ **Financial Impact:** SFA experienced a significant cost increase to procure the WGR product; significant drop in meal counts after the WGR product(s) was offered (provide documentation of cost comparison, etc.) — List Product(s):_____

☐ **Availability:** Unable to order whole grain-rich product (provide documentation) — List Product(s):_____

Written justification (use additional sheets if necessary):_____

SFA Name:_____ Agreement Number:_____

By signing below, the SFA understands that 1) This is an annual waiver and will be applicable only until June 30, 2016. 2) The SFA will continue to search for acceptable WGR products, and must comply with the SY 2013-14 requirement to offer at least half of the grains as WGR products. 3) HCNP retains the right to withhold or change the status of your exemption at our discretion.

Printed Name	Signature	Date

(Authorized Representative/District Superintendent)

For HCNP Use Only

Date Received_____ Date Approved/Denied _____ HCNP Staff Initials_____