

WAIVER SERIAL NUMBER: 970050

TYPE OF REQUEST: Extension

PRIMARY REGULATION CITATION:

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996 (P. L. No. 104-193)

SECONDARY REGULATION CITATION: Not applicable.

STATE: Hawaii.

REGION: Western.

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS:

Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the food stamp program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than three months (consecutive or otherwise) during which the individual did not:

- Work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly;
 - Participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week, as determined by the State agency;
 - Participate in and comply with the requirements of a program under section 20 or comparable program established by a State or political subdivision of a State; or
 - Receive benefits pursuant to paragraph (3), (4), or (5) of this section.
- Section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the PRWORA, also provides that, upon request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES:

Pursuant to paragraph (4) of section 824, the State is requesting a waiver of the applicability of the work requirements as stipulated in paragraph (2) for the islands of Hawaii, Kauai and Molokai.

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:

The unemployment rate (as reported by the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations) for these islands are 10 percent or higher: The following is unemployment data for the 9/97 to 8/98 period:

<u>MONTH/YEAR</u>	<u>HAWAII</u>	<u>KAUAI</u>	<u>MOLOKAI</u>
9/97	9.4	9.7	15.0
10/97	9.0	9.5	15.4
11/97	8.6	9.4	13.9
12/97	7.6	10.2	12.9
1/98	8.0	9.3	13.8
2/98	8.4	9.0	12.9
3/98	8.3	11.1	11.7
4/98	8.2	8.6	12.0
5/98	9.4	9.1	15.0
6/98	10.9	10.7	16.0
7/98	10.1	9.4	16.9
8/98	9.6	9.3	14.2
AVERAGE	8.9 *	9.6 **	14.14

* Although the average is less than 10%, the last three months average 10.2%.

** Rounded average equals 10%.

Because Hawaii is an island state, it is impracticable for food stamp recipients to commute (daily) from their home to a job on another island.

ANTICIPATED IMPACT ON HOUSEHOLDS AND STATE AGENCY OPERATIONS:

Denial of this waiver request will adversely impact upon the recipients residing on these islands. If these recipients become ineligible for benefits, it will result in cost savings to the Federal government

CASELOAD INFORMATION, INCLUDING PERCENT, CHARACTERISTICS, AND QUALITY CONTROL ERROR RATE FOR AFFECTED PORTION:

Not applicable (as statute does not stipulate this).

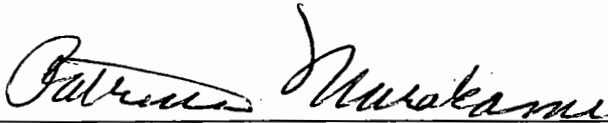
ANTICIPATED IMPLEMENTATION DATE AND TIME PERIOD FOR WHICH WAIVER IS NEEDED:

January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999.

PROPOSED QUALITY CONTROL (QC) REVIEW PROCEDURES:

QC reviewers will not be applying the provisions of Section 824 of the PRWORA to the recipients residing on the islands of Hawaii, Maui and Molokai.

SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF REQUESTING OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Patricia Murakami", is written over a horizontal line.

Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division Administrator

DATE OF REQUEST: 10/1/98