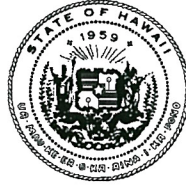


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



LILIAN B. KOLLER ESQ.
DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division
820 Mililani Street, Suite 606
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2936

January 29, 2008

Mr. Dennis Stewart, Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
U. S. Department of Agriculture, FNS
Western Region
90 Seventh Street, Suite 10-100
San Francisco, California 94103

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Subject: Waiver extension request (970050)

Enclosed is our request for a waiver of section 6(o) of the Food Stamp Act, as amended by Section 824 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (see enclosure 1). We are requesting a waiver from the "ABAWD" requirements for the island of Molokai. This area had an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during December 2005 – November 2007, when the national average unemployment rate plus 20 percent was 5.5. See enclosures 2 and 3 for supporting data.

We are requesting a response to this waiver request by March 17, 2008 so we can timely notify our line staff of any changes. If you have any questions, please contact Food Stamp Eligibility Specialist, Faye Chi at (808) 586-5724.

Sincerely,

Pankaj Bhanot
Acting Assistant Division Administrator

Enclosures