



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division
820 Mililani Street, Suite 606
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-2936

August 29, 2017

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

RE: Waiver extension request (2150080)

Dear Mr. Stewart:

Hawaii is requesting a waiver from the "ABAWD" requirements for the island of Molokai. The Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations data provides data that establishes Molokai Island had an unemployment average rate of 7.8 percent. The national average unemployment rate for the 24 month period of May 2015 through April 2017 was 4.9 percent. The supporting data is attached.

Under Federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(4), the State may begin to operate a waiver at the time the request is submitted in areas for which the State certifies that data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics establishes the State has an unemployment rate over 10 percent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Nakasone".

Scott Nakasone
Assistant Division Administrator

Enclosures

STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150080
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Hawaii
6. **Region:** WRO
7. **Regulatory requirements:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, as amended, provides that no able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) shall be eligible to participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) as a member of any household if the individual received program benefits for more than 3 months during any 3-year period in which the individual was subject to but did not comply with the ABAWD work requirement. Section 6(o) also provides that, upon the request of the State agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the 3-month ABAWD time limit 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.
8. **Description of alternative procedures:** The State of Hawaii is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) on Molokai Island from the SNAP time limit at 7 CFR 273.24.
9. **Justification for request:**
Under SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2), areas may qualify for an ABAWD time limit waiver if they have insufficient jobs. To support this claim, states may submit evidence that an area has an average unemployment rate for a 24-month time period that is at least 20 percent above the national average for the same 24-month period. 7 CFR 273.24(f)(6) provides that States may define areas to be waived.

The Island of Molokai in the State of Hawaii is eligible for a waiver based on the island's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of May 2015 through April 2017. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.9 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.9 percent. The island's unemployment rate for this period was 7.8 percent. These unemployment rates are calculated from data obtained from the Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLRI),

since the national Bureau of Labor Statistics does not collect data for this island. The Hawaii DLRI collaborates with BLS to produce these estimates.¹

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data May 2015 through April 2017			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Molokai Island	4,700	60,300	7.8%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.9%		

10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations in areas where unemployment remains higher than the national average.

11. Caseload information, including percent, characteristics, and quality control error rate for affection portion (if applicable):

The caseload for these areas, as of 06/30/17, represent 1.3% of the caseload for the state. There are no quality control procedures involved.

12. Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:

The State is requesting a one-year waiver, from December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2018.

13. Proposed quality control review procedures:

There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

14. State agency submitting waiver request and State contact person:

Pamela Higa, SNAP Administrator, #(808) 586-5722

15. Signature and title of requesting official:

Name: Pamela Higa

Title: SNAP Administrator

Email for transmission of response: phiga@dhs.hawaii.gov

16. Date of request: 08/29/17

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Pamela Higa

See #15 above

18. Regional office contact person (to be completed by FNS regional office):

¹ The data used to support this request was downloaded from the Hawaii DLRI website: <https://www.hiwi.org/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>.

**AREAS IN HAWAII THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR WAIVERS ON THE BASIS OF
MAY 2015 - APR 2017
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES**

Step 1	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labc
Step 2	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 24-month lat
Step 3	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly une
Step 4	Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 24-month un

	from Step 2	from Step 4
	MAY 2015 - APR 2017	MAY 2015 - APR 2017
	Total labor force	Total number of unemployed
U.S. National Average	3,808,557	187,202
20% Above the National Average Threshold		
Molokai Island	60,300	4,700

Data from Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Research and Statistics Office, LAUS Pr
Data are rounded to the nearest 50.

or force numbers
 or force totals
 mployed numbers
 employed totals

Step 5		Step 6	Step 7
MAY 2015 - APR 2017 Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded)	MAY 2015 - APR 2017 Average Unemployment Rate (4 decimal places)	MAY 2015 - APR 2017 Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100)	MAY 2015 - APR 2017 Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place)
0.04915	0.0491 0.0589	4.91 5.89	4.9 5.9
0.07794	0.0779	7.79	7.8

rogram, available at <https://www.hiwi.org/gsipub/index.asp?docid=417>

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Data extracted on: June 14, 2017 (11:49:38 AM)

Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey

Series Id: LNU01000000

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level

Labor force status: Civilian labor force

Type of data: Number in thousands

Age: 16 years and over

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Series id	Year	Period	Value
LNU01000000	2015	M01	156050(1)
LNU01000000	2015	M02	156213
LNU01000000	2015	M03	156318
LNU01000000	2015	M04	156554
LNU01000000	2015	M05	157719
LNU01000000	2015	M06	158283
LNU01000000	2015	M07	158527
LNU01000000	2015	M08	157390
LNU01000000	2015	M09	156607
LNU01000000	2015	M10	157313
LNU01000000	2015	M11	157340
LNU01000000	2015	M12	157245
LNU01000000	2016	M01	157347(1)
LNU01000000	2016	M02	158279
LNU01000000	2016	M03	158854
LNU01000000	2016	M04	158488
LNU01000000	2016	M05	158800
LNU01000000	2016	M06	160135
LNU01000000	2016	M07	160705
LNU01000000	2016	M08	159800
LNU01000000	2016	M09	159636
LNU01000000	2016	M10	159783
LNU01000000	2016	M11	159451
LNU01000000	2016	M12	158968
LNU01000000	2017	M01	158676(1)
LNU01000000	2017	M02	159482
LNU01000000	2017	M03	159912

Series id	Year	Period	Value
LNU01000000	2017	M04	159817
LNU01000000	2017	M05	159979

1 : Data affected by changes in population controls.

Series Id: LNU03000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
 Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level
 Labor force status: Unemployed
 Type of data: Number in thousands
 Age: 16 years and over

Download: Download as an Excel File

Series id	Year	Period	Value
LNU03000000	2015	M01	9498
LNU03000000	2015	M02	9095
LNU03000000	2015	M03	8682
LNU03000000	2015	M04	7966
LNU03000000	2015	M05	8370
LNU03000000	2015	M06	8638
LNU03000000	2015	M07	8805
LNU03000000	2015	M08	8162
LNU03000000	2015	M09	7628
LNU03000000	2015	M10	7597
LNU03000000	2015	M11	7573
LNU03000000	2015	M12	7542
LNU03000000	2016	M01	8309
LNU03000000	2016	M02	8219
LNU03000000	2016	M03	8116
LNU03000000	2016	M04	7413
LNU03000000	2016	M05	7207
LNU03000000	2016	M06	8144
LNU03000000	2016	M07	8267
LNU03000000	2016	M08	7996
LNU03000000	2016	M09	7658
LNU03000000	2016	M10	7447
LNU03000000	2016	M11	7066
LNU03000000	2016	M12	7170
LNU03000000	2017	M01	8149
LNU03000000	2017	M02	7887
LNU03000000	2017	M03	7284
LNU03000000	2017	M04	6555
LNU03000000	2017	M05	6572

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