

## STATE WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver Serial Number (if applicable):** 2150080
2. **Type of request:** Initial
3. **Statutory citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
4. **Regulatory citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
5. **State:** Hawaii
6. **Region:** Western Regional Office
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 three (3) months during any three-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 three-month ABAWD time limit for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary decides 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 a waiver to exempt residents residing in the entire state 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 State of Hawaii is eligible for a waiver based on the island's average unemployment rate for the 24-month period of August 2020 through July 2022. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 5.3 percent; 20 percent above this was 6.3 percent. The state's unemployment rate for this period was 6.6 percent. These unemployment rates are calculated from data obtained from the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT).<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The data used to support this request was downloaded from the Hawaii DBEDT's website: <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/economic/unemployment-statistics/>

| Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data<br>August 2020 to July 2022 |            |             |                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
|                                                                                     | Unemployed | Labor Force | Unemployment Rate |
| Hawaii                                                                              | 1,047,650  | 15,991,600  | 6.6%              |
| 20% Above National Average Threshold                                                | 6.3%       |             |                   |

**10. Anticipated impact on households and State agency operations:**

This waiver will provide consistency for households and State agency operations.

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

This waiver affects the entire state.

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

The State is requesting a one-year waiver from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

**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:**

Hawaii Department of Human Services / Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division  
/ SNAP Employment & Training / Charlene H. Oyasato, Program Specialist

**15. Signature and title of requesting official:**



Title: Assistant Division Administrator

Email for transmission of response: [SNakasone2@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:SNakasone2@dhs.hawaii.gov)

**16. Date of request:** May 9, 2023

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

Charlene H. Oyasato / [coyasato@dhs.hawaii.gov](mailto:coyasato@dhs.hawaii.gov) / (808) 586-5724

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