

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 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 a waiver to exempt residents residing in two counties 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 seeks a waiver for the counties of Kauai and Maui based on their average unemployment rates for the 24-month period of February 2021 through January 2023. These counties include the islands of Kauai, Lanai, Maui and Molokai. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above this was 5.2 percent. The counties' unemployment rates for this period were above this threshold.

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Data February 2021 through January 2023			
	Unemployed	Labor Force	Unemployment Rate
Kauai County	47,491	876,054	5.4%
Maui County	108,372	2,096,812	5.2%
20% Above National Average Threshold	5.2%		

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):

The caseload for these areas, as of **March 1, 2024**, represent **16%** of the caseload for the state. Kauai County represents 5% and Maui County represents 11%. There are no quality control concerns to the state's error rate at this time.

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

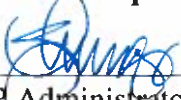
The State is requesting a one-year waiver from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

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: Ginet Hayes, SNAP Administrator, (808) 586-5722.

15. Signature and title of requesting official:


 Title: SNAP Administrator
 Email for transmission of response: GHayes@dhs.hawaii.gov

16. Date of request: April 16, 2024

17. State agency staff contact (name/email/telephone): Charlene Oyasato, coyasato@dhs.hawaii.gov, (808) 586-5724

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