



Food and
Nutrition
Service

AUG 05 2014

Park Office
Center

Pankaj Bhanot
Division Administrator
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division
Hawaii Department of Human Services
820 Mililani Street, Suite 606
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria
VA 22302

RE: SNAP – Hawaii Request to Waive Able-bodied Adults without Dependents Time
Limits - Extension - Approval

Dear Ms. Cummings:

This is in response to the Hawaii Department of Human Services' request for an extension of its waiver to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) throughout the State from Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.

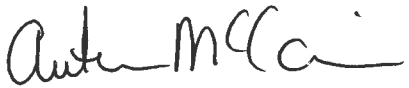
The Hawaii State agency has requested an extension of its statewide waiver of the ABAWD time limit. The State's current waiver is effective through September 30, 2014. The supporting documentation provided shows that Hawaii qualified for extended unemployment benefits, criteria for waiver approval outlined in SNAP regulations at 7 CFR 273.24. Hawaii provided a copy the Department of Labor's Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) trigger notice 2012-47, effective December 9, 2012, showing that the State qualified for EUC, an extended unemployment benefit program. Following longstanding Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) policy, States qualify for a one-year statewide wavier up to one year from the trigger date. Therefore, Hawaii is eligible for a statewide ABAWD wavier from December 2013 through November 2014, which would effectively extend its current waiver of the ABAWD time limit by two months.

FNS is approving this request to extend Hawaii's waiver of the ABAWD time limit by two months, from October 1, 2014 through November 30, 2014. Although the State agency requested an extension through December 2014, FNS policy limits the effective dates of waivers based on a State's qualification for extended unemployment benefits to a one-year period up to one year from the trigger date. A detailed response is attached.

Pankaj Bhanot
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If you have any questions, please contact Walter Zaumseil at
Walter.Zaumseil@fns.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Autumn McCain". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Autumn" written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name "McCain" written in a more traditional cursive script.

Autumn McCain
Acting Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 2140021
2. **Type of Request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **State:** Hawaii
5. **Region:** Western
6. **Regulatory Requirement:** Federal regulations at 7 CFR 273.24 provide that no individual 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 months during any three year period in which the individual was subject to, but did not comply with the SNAP work requirements. Regulations at 273.24(a) provide that fulfilling the work requirement means: working 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participating in and complying with the requirements of a work program or a workfare program for at least 20 hours per week; or any combination of working and participating in a work program for a total of 20 hours per week.

Regulations at 7CFR 273.24(f) also provide that, upon the request of a 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.
7. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The State of Hawaii is requesting to exempt able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs) from SNAP time limits at 7 CFR 273.24.
8. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** FNS is approving the Hawaii State agency's request to waive ABAWD time limits as the State meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii)
9. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(i),(ii) and (iii).
10. **Conditions and reasons:** None.

11. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data or other information as described in 273.24(f). If Hawaii wishes to receive an extension based on unemployment rates, it must provide FNS with a waiver request along with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets.
12. **Expiration date:** This waiver extension is effective beginning October 1, 2014 and will expire on November 30, 2014.
13. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Hawaii Department of Human Services.
14. **Date of national office action:** AUG 05 2014
15. **Date of State agency's request:** June 23, 2014
16. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** July 7, 2014
17. **Implementation date (notify FNS if actual date differs):** October 1, 2014
18. **State agency contact:**
Pankaj Bhanot
pbhanot@dhs.hawaii.gov
19. **FNS regional contact:**
Walter Zaumseil
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415-437-8612