



United States Department of Agriculture

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Food and  
Nutrition  
Service

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Date: November 16, 2018

Scott Nakasone  
Acting Administrator  
Benefits, Employment, and Support Services  
Department of Human Services  
1010 Richards Street, Suite 512  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – Hawaii Request to Waive Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents Time Limit – Approval**

Dear Mr. Nakasone:

This is in response to the Hawaii State agency's October 4, 2018, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents on the Island of Molokai from December 1, 2018, through November 30, 2019.

The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) guidance. Therefore, FNS is approving the State to waive the time limit in the area for a 12-month period, as requested. The attached waiver response includes the approved area, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval. Please contact your FNS Regional Office with any questions.

FNS is reviewing its policies regarding waivers of the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents. Moving forward, FNS will be taking actions to support the Administration's priority to provide able-bodied Americans a path to self-sufficiency. This goal requires that we establish a clear and mutual commitment to moving SNAP participants to meaningful employment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sasha Gersten-Paal".

Sasha Gersten-Paal  
Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

## **Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response**

- 1. Serial Number:** 2150080
- 2. Request Type:** Extension and amendment
- 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. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
- 7. Requirement:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 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 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) and 7 CFR 273.24 also provide 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. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The Hawaii State agency has requested to waive the ABAWD time limit on the Island of Molokai from December 1, 2018, through November 30, 2019. The State agency has supported its request based upon the Island having an average unemployment rate 20 percent above the national average for the recent 24-month period of July 2016 through June 2018. During this time period the national average unemployment rate was 4.4 percent; 20 percent above that rate is 5.3 percent. During this time period, the requested area's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent<sup>1</sup>.
- 9. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency to waive the ABAWD time limit as requested. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 10. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 11. Implementation Date:** December 1, 2018
- 12. Expiration Date:** November 30, 2019

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<sup>1</sup> Data extracted from <http://www.hiwi.org> and <http://www.bls.gov> and validated by FNS on October 10, 2018.

**13. Information Required for Amendment or Extension:** To receive an amendment or extension the State agency must provide FNS with a formal request supported by data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f). Any request based upon unemployment rates must include data spreadsheets and supporting documentation.

**14. State Agency Contact Information:**

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Phone Number: (808) 586-5722  
Email: phiga@dhs.hawaii.gov

**15. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:**

Name: Jackie Bourne  
Phone Number: (415) 293-3717  
Email: jacqueline.bourne@usda.gov