



United States Department of Agriculture

Food and
Nutrition
Service

1320 Braddock Place
Alexandria, VA
22314

June 27, 2022

Scott Nakasone
Assistant Division Administrator
Benefit, Employment, and Support Services Division
Hawaii 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 – Initial – Approval**

Dear Assistant Division Administrator Nakasone:

This is in response to the Hawaii agency's May 26, 2022, request to waive the SNAP time limit for able-bodied adults without dependents (ABAWDs). The attached waiver response includes the approved areas, the supporting evidence used, and the conditions of approval.

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) also reminds the State agency that it must measure the 3-year period and track ABAWDs on a continuous basis, even in areas under a waiver. The State must continue tracking so that the State will be ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the time limit. Please contact your Regional Office representative with any questions.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jacqueline O'Connor".
1571FEB51B1B482...

6/27/2022

Jacqueline O'Connor
Acting Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Enclosure

Enclosure

Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) Waiver Response

- 1. Request Type:** Initial
- 2. Statutory Citation:** Section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008
- 3. Regulatory Citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
- 4. State:** Hawaii
- 5. Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) Region:** Western
- 6. 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.
- 7. Requested Area(s) and Support:** The State agency requested to waive the ABAWD time limit throughout the State from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. The State agency supported its request based upon having a 24-month average unemployment rate higher than 20 percent above the national average for the 24-month period of December 2019 through November 2021. Hawaii's 24-month average unemployment rate was 8.7% from December 2019 to November 2021. The national average unemployment rate for this 24-month period was 6.7 percent; 20 percent above this was 8 percent.
- 8. FNS Action and Justification:** FNS is approving the State agency's request to waive the ABAWD time limit for 12 months, consistent with FNS guidance. The State agency's request meets the requirements for approval provided at 7 CFR 273.24(f) and relevant FNS guidance.
- 9. Authority:** The waiver is approved pursuant to section 6(o) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 and 7 CFR 273.24(f).
- 10. Implementation Date:** July 1, 2022

Enclosure

Page 2

11. Expiration Date: June 30, 2023

12. 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.

13. State Agency Contact Information:

Name: Charlene H. Oyasato

Phone Number: (808) 586-7050

Email: coyasato@dhs.hawaii.gov

14. FNS Regional Office Contact Information:

Name: D'Artagnan Gippson

Phone Number: (415) 705-1365

Email: d'artagnan.gippson@usda.gov