



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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DLIR TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL 14 WEEKS OF FEDERALLY FUNDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

HONOLULU - Darwin Ching director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that an additional 14 weeks of federal benefits will be available to unemployed workers in Hawaii who previously exhausted their Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) benefits under the Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009.

Currently, unemployed individuals are eligible for 20 weeks of EUC Tier I benefits after exhausting 26 weeks of regular benefits. An additional 13 weeks of EUC Tier II benefits are payable if the individual exhausts all Tier I benefits before December 31, 2009.

The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 expands the EUC program by providing one additional week of Tier II benefits and 13 additional weeks of a new Tier III benefits for certain states, including Hawaii, with a high unemployment level. However the Act did not extend the program end date and all initial applications for EUC Tier I benefits must be made by December 31, 2009. Therefore, not all unemployed persons may qualify for the new Tier III level of EUC benefits.

According to Director Ching, the Department will mail out notices to all claimants who have exhausted their 33 weeks of EUC benefits and may be eligible for additional EUC benefits under this new federal legislation. These notices will advise claimants about how they can apply for the additional EUC benefits. The Department has begun verifying claimants' eligibility and reprogramming computer systems to implement the additional benefits.

Claimants with balances remaining on their EUC Tier I or Tier II claims as of December 31, 2009 may continue to be eligible for EUC benefits at their respective Tier levels through June 5, 2010. However, individuals who exhaust Tier I benefits after the week ending December 26, 2009 will not qualify for Tier II or Tier III benefits.

The additional weeks of EUC are entirely federally funded and will not have an impact on the state's General Fund or the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

For more information, go to: www.hawaii.gov/labor

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