



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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MR 2010 10

For Immediate Release: July 23, 2010

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXTENDED

HONOLULU -- Pearl Imada Iboshi, director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, announced today that unemployment insurance benefits for unemployed residents in Hawai'i have been extended with the signing of HR4213 by President Barack Obama today.

The federal legislation will extend the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program through November 30, 2010. Unemployed workers in Hawai'i who exhausted their regular unemployment insurance benefits after May 22, 2010 thru July 17, 2010 can retroactively file new EUC claims. Individuals who did not exhaust all 47 weeks of EUC benefits may be eligible for more federal benefits if still unemployed. However, the new law does not increase the current maximum 47 weeks of EUC benefits.

Provided all eligibility requirements are met, individuals may collect 20 weeks of EUC Tier I benefits after exhausting their regular unemployment insurance claim. Individuals who exhaust a Tier before the deadline of November 30, 2010 can qualify for the next Tier level. Up to 14 additional weeks are available on Tier II and 13 additional weeks on Tier III.

"We appreciate having the federal funds to help our unemployed and the economy," said Director Imada Iboshi.

The Department will notify individuals who are potentially eligible for EUC benefits under the new law by mail on a staggered schedule. Due to the enormous increase in additional EUC claims to be processed, the Department asks that the public wait to receive the notices and follow instructions before contacting their local unemployment insurance claim offices. It may take several weeks to process over 10,000 retroactive EUC claims and 45,000 weekly claim certifications that date back to May 2010.