

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

Tier I – 20 weeks
Tier II – 13 + 1 weeks
Tier III – 13 weeks

On March 2, 2010, President Obama signed new federal legislation which extended the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program to April 5, 2010. This is the sixth legislation affecting the EUC program. This new legislation extended the deadlines for filing for the federal extension but did not add more weeks of unemployment benefits. If you have already collected 47 weeks of EUC benefits, you are not eligible for more EUC benefits in Hawaii.

20 weeks of Tier I EUC. The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008, signed by President Bush on June 30, 2008, provided up to 13 weeks of federally funded EUC benefits in all states to unemployed individuals who collected all regular benefits or whose benefit claims were expired. The first payable week is week ending July 12, 2008. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 signed by President Bush on November 21, 2008 expanded Tier I up to 7 additional weeks for a total of 20 weeks. The first payable week for the 7 additional weeks is week ending November 29, 2008.

14 weeks of Tier II EUC. The Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 enacted on November 21, 2008, also authorized a second tier of 13 additional weeks in states with high unemployment. With the total unemployment rate climbing to more than 6 % in the first quarter of 2009, Hawaii triggered on to Tier II. The first payable week for Tier II is week ending May 9, 2009. You must exhaust Tier I benefits on or before April 5, 2010 to be eligible for Tier II benefits. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act of 2009 signed by President Obama on November 6, 2009 provided one additional week on Tier II making a total of 14 weeks payable and removed the high unemployment trigger for this level.

13 weeks of Tier III EUC. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act which is effective November 8, 2009 also added a third tier of 13 additional weeks in states with a 13-week insured unemployment rate of at least 4% or a 3-month average total unemployment rate of at least 6%. You must exhaust Tier II benefits on or before April 5, 2010 to be eligible for Tier III benefits.

6 weeks of Tier IV EUC. NOT AVAILABLE IN HAWAII. The Worker, Homeownership, and Business Assistance Act also added a fourth tier for states with a 13-week insured unemployment rate of at least 6% or a 3-month average total unemployment rate of at least 8.5%. Hawaii EUC claimants do not qualify for Tier IV as the unemployment rate for the state is below the trigger level.

Remaining balances on existing claims. After April 5, 2010, individuals with balances remaining at their respective Tier level may continue to be eligible for their remaining Tier entitlement until the week ending September 4, 2010. However, you will not be able

to move up to the next Tier level. No EUC benefits can be paid for any week that begins after September 4, 2010.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EUC?

To be eligible, individuals must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be currently unemployed and apply for EUC by April 3, 2010. The EUC program ends April 5, 2010 unless Congress acts to extend the program. No new EUC applications will be accepted for weeks of unemployment ending after April 3, 2010.
2. You had a claim for regular benefits with a benefit year ending May 1, 2007 or later which has exhausted or has expired.
3. You must have no rights to regular benefits or any other compensation under federal law and not receiving benefits under the Canada unemployment law.
4. You must have one of the following in the base period of your last regular unemployment insurance claim:
 - 20 weeks of full-time insured employment or
 - Wages equal to one and one-half times your high quarter wages or
 - Wages equal to 40 times the weekly benefit amount on your last regular claim.
5. You must satisfy all eligibility requirements of the Hawaii Employment Security Law.
6. You must be registered in HireNet Hawaii and keep your resume posted online. You must continue to make 3 job contacts each week.
7. You must not have a disqualification or ineligibility still in effect.

In addition to the above, you must exhaust each Tier on or before April 5, 2010 to be eligible for the next Tier.

HOW DO I FILE FOR EUC?

1. New EUC Claims - Exhaustees of Regular UI benefits.

For individuals who exhaust regular UI benefits, notices are being mailed out weekly with instructions to report in-person to a local claims office with your notice or to call Hawaii Tele-Claim and apply for EUC by phone. The maximum benefit amount on your new EUC claim will be 20 times your weekly benefit amount for Tier I. The last day to apply for a new EUC claim is April 3, 2010.

Individuals who exhaust regular UI benefits after March 27, 2010 will not be eligible to collect EUC unless Congress extends the deadline to apply.

2. Current EUC filers - Claimants who have not exhausted 20 weeks of Tier I or 33 weeks of Tier II.

Tier I to Tier II. If you are currently filing EUC and exhaust 20 weeks of Tier I EUC benefits on or before April 5, 2010, you will be eligible for 14 additional weeks of Tier II EUC. Your maximum benefit amount will automatically be increased and a determination will be mailed to you.

Tier II to Tier III. You will be eligible for 13 additional weeks of Tier III EUC if you exhaust Tier II benefits on or before April 5, 2010. Your maximum benefit amount will be automatically increased and a determination will be mailed to you. If you do not receive a determination, please report to your local claims office or call Hawaii Tele-Claim to request an extension.

3. EUC claimants who have already exhausted 33 weeks of Tier I and Tier II need to reopen existing EUC claims.

If you exhausted 33 weeks of Tier I and Tier II benefits, you will need to reopen your existing EUC claim if you are still unemployed. To file by phone, call Hawaii Tele-Claim using your same PIN number.

To file for new or to reopen EUC claims by phone. Call Hawaii Tele-Claim (toll-free) at:

643-5555 (if you are in Hawaii) or
1-877-215-5793 (if you are out-of-state)

Sunday through Thursday 6:30 am to 12 midnight (HST) and
Friday 6:30 am to 4:30 pm.

To file weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications by phone. Call Hawaii Tele-Claim (toll-free) at:

643-2222 (if you are in Hawaii) or
1-877-215-5791 (if you are out-of-state)

To file in person: See Local Claim Office locations and contact information below.

HONOLULU Claims Office
830 Punchbowl St., Rm 110
PO Box 4090
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971
Fax: 586-8980
Email: dlir.ui.honolulu@hawaii.gov

LIABLE INTERSTATE Unit (out-of-state)
PO Box 4090
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090
Ph: (808) 586-8960
Fax: (808) 586-8980

WAIPAHU Claims Office
94-275 Mokuola St, Rm 301
Waipahu, HI 96797-3369
Ph: 675-0030
Fax: 675-0025
Email: dlir.ui.waipahu@hawaii.gov

KANEOHE Claims Unit
PO Box 4087
Honolulu, HI 96812-4087
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971
Fax: 586-8980
Email: dlir.ui.honolulu@hawaii.gov

KANEOHE Office
46-005 Kawa St., Ste 205
Kaneohe, HI 96744
Ph: 233-3679

HILO Claims Office
1990 Kinoole St., Ste 101
Hilo, HI 96720-5293
Ph: 974-4086 Fax: 974-4085
Email: dlir.ui.hilo@hawaii.gov

KONA Claims office
81-990 Halekii St, Rm 2090
Kealahou, HI 96750
Ph: 322-4822 Fax: 322-4828
Email: dlir.ui.kona@hawaii.gov

MAUI Claims Office
54 South High St., Rm 201
Wailuku, HI 96793
Ph: 984-8400 Fax: 984-8444
Email: dlir.ui.maui@hawaii.gov

MOLOKAI Claims Office
55 Makaena St, Rm 4
Kaunakakai, HI 96748-1858
Ph: 553-1750 Fax: 553-1753

KAUAI Claims Office
3-3100 Kuhio Hwy, Rm C-12
Lihue, HI 96766
Ph: 274-3043 Fax: 274-3046
Email: dlir.ui.kauai@hawaii.gov