

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (13 + 7 additional weeks)

On November 21, 2008, President Bush signed the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008. The Extension Act amends the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 which provided up to 13 weeks of federally funded Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) in all states to unemployed individuals who already collected all regular state benefits or have expired benefit claims. The Extension Act expands the EUC program in Hawaii up to 7 additional weeks for a total of 20 weeks.

(Note: Although the new law authorized 13 additional weeks in states with high unemployment, Hawaii does not qualify as a state with a high unemployment rate.)

The EUC program is available in Hawaii from July 6, 2008 to March 31, 2009. Benefits are payable only for weeks filed within the extension period and does not cover any weeks of unemployment prior to July 6, 2008. The first payable week is for the week ending July 12, 2008. Under the Extension Act, the first payable week for the 7 additional weeks is the week ending November 29, 2008.

After March 31, 2009, individuals with balances remaining on their EUC claim may continue to be eligible for their maximum EUC amount until the week ending August 29, 2009. No EUC benefits can be paid for any week that begins after August 27, 2009.

The EUC program also contains specific eligibility conditions and a limited reachback provision.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR EUC?

To be eligible, individuals must meet the following requirements:

1. You must be currently unemployed.
2. You had a claim for regular benefits with a benefit year ending 5/1/2007 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.

HOW DO I FILE FOR EUC?

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 file for your EUC by phone. Your new EUC claim will include the 7 additional weeks for a total of 20 weeks.

Current EUC claimants. If you are currently filing for EUC benefits, your maximum benefit amount will be increased by 7 additional weeks for a total of 20 weeks. You will receive a revised monetary determination showing the additional amount in your EUC claim. Continue filing your claim certifications on a bi-weekly basis.

EUC claimants who already exhausted 13 weeks. If you have already exhausted the first 13 weeks of benefits and are still unemployed, you will have to reopen your EUC claim to file for the additional 7 weeks. The first payable week for the 7 additional weeks of EUC benefits for those who have already exhausted is the week ending November 29, 2008. You will not be allowed to claim benefits for the period prior to November 23, 2008. A notice was mailed out to all exhaustees with instructions to complete the UC-BP-1 application form and return it to your local office within one week after receipt. Your monetary determination must be revised from 13 to 20 weeks before you can submit claim certifications. After you receive your revised monetary determination, begin filing your claim certifications by filing weekly for the weeks ending 11/29/08 and 12/6/08. Thereafter, you will file bi-weekly beginning with the weeks ending 12/13/08 and 12/20/08 which should be filed no later than 7 days after the second week ends.

To file for new 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 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 below.

HONOLULU Claims Office

LIABLE INTERSTATE Unit

830 Punchbowl St., Rm 110
PO Box 4090
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971

PO Box 4090
Honolulu, HI 96812-4090
Ph: (808) 586-8960

WAIPAHAU Claims Office
94-275 Mokuola St, Rm 301
Waipahu, HI 96797-3369
Ph: 675-0030

KANEOHE Claims Unit
PO Box 4087
Honolulu, HI 96812-4087
Ph: 586-8970 or 586-8971

KANEOHE Office (Mon & Wed only)
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

KONA Claims office
81-990 Halekii St, Rm 2090
Kealahou, HI 96750
Ph: 322-4822

MAUI Claims Office
54 South High St., Rm 201
Wailuku, HI 96793
Ph: 984-8400

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

KAUAI Claims Office
3-3100 Kuhio Hwy, Rm C-12
Lihue, HI 96766
Ph: 274-3043