



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**

GOVERNOR

---

DARWIN L.D. CHING, DIRECTOR  
COLLEEN Y. LaCLAIR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
Phone: (808) 586-8844  
Fax: (808) 586-9099

---

**MR 2009 14**

**For Immediate Release: May 21, 2009**

### **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS TO RECEIVE \$10.2 MILLION IN UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MODERNIZATION INCENTIVE FUNDS**

HONOLULU - Darwin Ching, Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, added details to the recent announcement that Hawai'i's Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division will be receiving nearly \$10.2 million in modernization incentive funds available under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). States can qualify for a share of the \$7 billion in UI modernization incentive payments by showing that its law includes certain provisions which broaden eligibility for benefits.

Hawai'i's UI program contains a key provision that uses recent wages when determining eligibility for benefits. Because the state already has an alternative base period (ABP) law, the state was able to quickly receive the award of this money. The incentive fund does not change the level of benefits an individual may already receive; only the base period to qualify changed. This affords unemployed individuals who recently joined Hawai'i's workforce with an opportunity to qualify for UI assistance.

The department can use these monies to pay for benefits, replenish its trust fund, or, if appropriated by the legislature, for administering its UI program or providing employment services.

"These additional funds enable us to assist the unemployed and their families during these difficult economic times. It will help provide some financial security as they seek new employment opportunities." said Ching.

Along with Hawai'i, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Minnesota, Illinois, Virginia, and South Dakota, will receive a portion of these funds.

####

For more information, visit: [www.hawaii.gov/labor](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor)

or

Contact: Ryan Markham

Phone: (808) 586-8845

Fax: (808) 586-9099

Email: [ryan.k.markham@hawaii.gov](mailto:ryan.k.markham@hawaii.gov)