



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

**News Release**

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GOVERNOR

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MR2010\_03

For Immediate Release: January 25, 2010

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LAUNCHES  
THE DLIR VOLUNTEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

**Program Aims to Get Unemployed Back to Work,  
Enhance Job Training Opportunities**

**HONOLULU** – The Hawai`i State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) announced today that it will begin registering unemployed persons and businesses in the DLIR Volunteer Internship Program (DLIR VIP). The program will allow unemployment insurance claimants to gain workforce training by interning at local businesses for up to 32 hours a week for 8 weeks, while still receiving unemployment benefits. The Volunteer Internship Program is part of Governor Linda Lingle's economic recovery initiatives which she outlined in her State of the State Address ([www.hawaii.gov/gov](http://www.hawaii.gov/gov)) today and is geared toward getting Hawai'i's unemployed greater job skills and back to work quicker.

"The DLIR Volunteer Internship Program is a way for unemployed individuals who are trying to back into the workforce to demonstrate their talents and skills while interning with potential employers," said DLIR Director Darwin L.D. Ching. "Businesses benefit from a low-risk

evaluation and training period for potential employees, so it's really a win-win situation for everyone," Ching added.

It is anticipated that most, if not all, interns will be current unemployment insurance claimants who have not exhausted their 26 weeks of benefits. However, other unemployed jobseekers or part-time workers seeking full-time work may be eligible, provided they are registered in HireNet Hawai'i ([www.hirenethawaii.com](http://www.hirenethawaii.com)), the state-sponsored online job board.

The VIP program will begin next month and continue through December 2010. Results of the program will be assessed at that time to determine whether it should be continued.

To sign up and register or for more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit [www.hawaii.gov/labor/ui/vip](http://www.hawaii.gov/labor/ui/vip) or email [dlir.wdd.admin@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlir.wdd.admin@hawaii.gov).