

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION PHASING OUT

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

The Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program ends on November 30, 2010 unless Congress takes action before that date.

EUC initial claims. Individuals must exhaust their Regular benefits with the week ending November 20, 2010 to be eligible for EUC. New EUC applications must be filed by November 24, 2010 (November 25 is a holiday and the UI offices are closed on November 26 and November 27).

EUC continued claims. Individuals on existing EUC claims can continue to file their weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications to collect the balance of their Tier up to April 30, 2011. To move to the next Tier, individuals must exhaust all benefits on their present Tier by November 30, 2010.

On July 22, 2010, President Obama signed new federal legislation, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010, which extended the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program from June 2, 2010 to November 30, 2010. This is the eighth 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 November 30, 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 November 30, 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 November 30, 2010, individuals with balances remaining at their respective Tier level may continue to be eligible for their remaining Tier entitlement until the week ending April 30, 2011. 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 April 30, 2011.

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 November 24, 2010. The EUC program ends November 30, 2010 unless Congress acts to extend the program. No new EUC applications will be accepted for weeks of unemployment ending after November 30, 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 November 30, 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 November 24, 2010.

Retroactive filing. For those individuals who exhausted regular UI benefits after May 22, 2010 and were not allowed to file for EUC because the program ended, notices will be mailed out in stages with instructions to return the completed UC-BP-1 and multiple claim certifications form. Your EUC claim will be backdated to the week after your benefits ended.

The UC-BP-1 EUC application form and the multiple claim certification form are available on the DLIR website at Hawaii.gov/labor. Print and complete the forms and either mail or drop them off at your nearest unemployment claims office.

Individuals who exhaust regular UI benefits after November 20, 2010 will not be eligible to collect EUC unless Congress extends the deadline to apply.

2. EUC filers with existing EUC claims - Claimants who have exhausted 20 weeks of Tier I or 34 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 November 30, 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 November 30, 2010. Your maximum benefit amount will be automatically increased and a determination will be mailed to you.

Retroactive filing. For those individuals who exhausted a Tier after June 2, 2010 and was prevented from moving to the next Tier, your maximum benefit amount will be automatically increased and a revised determination will be mailed to you. A multiple claim certifications form will be included in the mailing so you can certify for the back weeks. Please wait for your revised monetary determination.

If you do not receive a determination, please report to your local claims office or call Hawaii Tele-Claim to request an extension.

WHY ARE SOME WEEKS NOT PAID BECAUSE OF A PENDING EUC REVIEW?

All states are required by federal guidelines to conduct a review at the end of every calendar quarter on each EUC claim. This review is to determine whether you qualify for a new regular claim or can continue on your EUC claim. The local claims office conducts this review and will release payments after the review is done.

WILL FEDERAL ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION PAYMENTS (FAC) OF \$25 STILL BE INCLUDED IN MY CHECKS?

If you applied for regular unemployment benefits after May 29, 2010, the FAC will not be added to your unemployment weekly benefit amount for regular and EUC benefits. For individuals who are already receiving the extra \$25 stimulus payments, you will continue to receive FAC until the program ends on December 11, 2010.

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
Email: dlir.ui.honolulu@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

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

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