



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

### News Release

**LINDA LINGLE**

GOVERNOR

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

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#### **STATE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRIGGERS ADDITIONAL FEDERAL BENEFITS**

HONOLULU - Darwin Ching director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that additional federal benefits are now available under the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program for unemployed workers who have exhausted all of their regular benefits and the first 20 weeks of EUC benefits.

Under the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008, the federal government provides up to 13 additional weeks of second tier EUC benefits for states with high unemployment. Hawaii has reached the necessary level of unemployment to qualify for Tier II, with a three-month average unemployment rate more than 6 percent for January, February and March 2009. Eligible claimants in Hawaii can now qualify for a total of 33 weeks of EUC under certain conditions. The first payable week for this second tier EUC extension is the week ending May 9, 2009.

To be eligible for the second tier EUC benefits, individuals must: 1) exhaust the first 20 weeks of EUC benefits before December 31, 2009, 2) not qualify for a new regular claim, and 3) continue to meet all eligibility criteria including registration for work, able and available for work, and active job search.

The department will mail out notices to all claimants who have exhausted their first 20 weeks of EUC benefits. Claimants will be instructed to complete and return an enclosed EUC Tier II application form. Eligible claimants will receive a revised monetary determination reflecting the increased benefit amount.

Individuals with balances remaining on their EUC claim as of December 31, 2009 may be eligible for their maximum EUC amount and continue to claim benefits until the week

ending June 5, 2010. No EUC benefits can be paid for any week that begins after May 31, 2010.

The additional weeks of EUC are entirely federally funded and will not have an impact on the state's General Fund or the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.

The added benefits should assist the approximately 5,000 individuals who already exhausted all available benefits and the growing number of individuals who have been affected by the economic downturn.

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

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contact:

Ryan Markham

Phone: (808) 586-8845

Fax: (808) 586-9099

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