

EMERGENCY UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION (20 additional weeks)

On February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to amend the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008. This new federal legislation extends the end date of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC) program from March 31, 2009 to December 31, 2009 but does not increase the number of weeks payable to individuals.

The Act also provides for an additional \$25 federal additional compensation stimulus payment for every week of EUC paid to you beginning with the week ending February 28, 2009 and after. Individuals do not need to apply or contact the UI Division to receive the \$25 stimulus payment and should just continue filing weekly or bi-weekly claim certifications as instructed.

The Supplemental Appropriations Act of 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 Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2008 expanded the EUC program in Hawaii up to 7 additional weeks for a total of 20 weeks.

(Note: Although federal legislation authorized another 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 December 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 and under the Extension Act, the first payable week for the 7 additional weeks is the week ending November 29, 2008.

After December 31, 2009, individuals with balances remaining on their EUC claim may continue to be eligible for their maximum EUC amount until the week ending June 5, 2010. No EUC benefits can be paid for any week that begins after May 31, 2010.

The EUC program also contains specific eligibility conditions.

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. The maximum benefit amount on your new EUC claim will be 20 times your weekly benefit amount.

EUC claimants who already exhausted 13 weeks. If you have already exhausted the first 13 weeks of benefits and are still unemployed, you must reopen your EUC claim to file for the additional 7 weeks. After you reopen your EUC claim, your monetary determination will 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 as instructed.

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

LIABLE INTERSTATE Unit
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