

March 29, 2006

970050

**SUBJECT:** FSP – Hawaii – Request to Extend ABAWD Waiver 970050 for the Island of Molokai for a two-year period.

**TO:** Dennis Stewart  
Regional Director  
Food Stamp Program  
Western Region

This is in response to your March 2, 2006 memo forwarding an amendment from the Hawaii State agency to extend waiver 970050 for a 2-year period. Hawaii wishes to waive 7 CFR 273.24 for the Island of Molokai. 7 CFR 273.24 limits the receipt of food stamp benefits to 3 months within a 3-year period for able-bodied adults who are not working (or participating in a work program) 20 hours or more each week or participating in workfare.

Our response approving the waiver is attached. If you have any questions, please contact Celeste Perkins at (703) 305-2507.

/s/

Harriet Kornegay  
Assistant Branch Chief  
Certification Policy Branch  
Program Development Division

Attachment

cc: All Regions (except WRO) w/Attachment  
Dan Wilucz, QC, PAD w/Attachment  
Bob Dalrymple, OANE w/Attachment  
FNS National Arbitrator w/Attachment

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:CPERKINS: 03-24-06:so  
File:I:CPB:Waivers:FY2006 970050 HI 2006 ABAWD 2-year Extension

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date



## WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 970050
2. **Type of Request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Hawaii
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36 month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, upon the request of a State Agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

8. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** In its FY 2005 request, Hawaii exempted the Island of Molokai from the ABAWD work requirement. The island had an average unemployment rate of over 10 percent for calendar year (CY) 2004. Hawaii supplied data from its Department of Labor and Industrial Relations website as documentation.

In its FY 2006 request, Hawaii wishes to amend its initial extension request to exempt the Island of Molokai from the ABAWD work requirement for a 2-year period. The Island's unemployment rate has exceeded the national unemployment rate by over 20 percent for the last 36 months (CY 2003-2005). Hawaii supplied data from its Department of Labor and Industrial Relations website as documentation.

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the waiver for a 2-year extension. Molakai Island unemployment rate of 8.7 exceeds the national unemployment rate of 5.5 by 20 percent for the last 36 months (CY 2003-2005). Therefore, the Island will qualify for a 2-year extension based on verification that the area has experienced and will probably continue chronic high unemployment.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f), which allows FNS to waive the applicability of the work requirement provision in 7 CFR 273.24 for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the affected individuals.
11. **Conditions and reasons:** N/A
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension, the State agency must provide data from their State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, its Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) cooperating agency, indicating that these areas had unemployment rates over 10 percent or do not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for individuals residing in these areas.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver will be effective May 01, 2006 through April 30, 2008.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** This waiver is limited to the Hawaii State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** N/A
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** February 6, 2006
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** March 02, 2006
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**