

March 26, 2008

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 February 29, 2008 memorandum forwarding the Hawaii State agency request 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

FINAL:USDA:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:CPERKINS: 03-25-08:jragan:03-26-08:305-2519
File:I:CPB:Waivers:FY2008 970050 HI 2008 ABAWD 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, if any:** N/A
5. **State:** Hawaii
6. **Region:** Western
7. **Regulatory requirements:** 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 proceeding 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 individual.
8. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** Hawaii is requesting an extension to exempt the Island of Molokai from the ABAWD work requirement for a two-year period. The Island's unemployment rate has exceeded the national unemployment rate by over 20 percent for the last 36 months (January 2005 through December 2007). Hawaii supplied data from its Department of Labor and Industrial Relations website (www.hiwi.org) as documentation. The waiver was also developed with the help of the Center of Budget and Policy Priorities.
9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the waiver for a two-year extension. Molokai Island unemployment rate of 6.4 exceeds the national unemployment rate of 4.8 by 20 percent for the last 36 months (January 2005 through December 2007). Therefore, the Island will qualify for a two-year extension based on an unemployment rate greater than 20 percent above the national average for a 36-month period, ending no earlier than three months prior to the request.

10. **Regulatory of 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 and 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 unemployment for individuals residing in these areas.
13. **Expiration date:** This waiver will be effective May 01, 2008 through April 30, 2010.
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:** January 29, 2008
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** February 29, 2008
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**