

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Overview

The Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) program temporarily supplements standard unemployment insurance (UI) for workers unemployed as a direct result of a disaster. DUA is run directly by the State of Hawaii Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) using federal funds, and is meant to help individuals who would not otherwise qualify for UI obtain financial support. Workers who have lost their jobs or are unable to work due to the disaster should file unemployment claims with DLIR as soon as possible to begin receiving benefits.

Eligibility

Most workers will be covered by the state's unemployment insurance program. For workers who do not qualify for that program, DUA is generally available. This includes any unemployed or self-employed individual who lived, worked, or were scheduled to work in the disaster area, and due to the disaster, they:

- No longer have a job or a place to work;
- Cannot reach the place of work;
- Cannot work due to damage to the place of work; or
- Cannot work because of an injury caused by the disaster.

An individual who becomes the head of their household and is looking for work because the former head of household died as a result of the disaster may also qualify for DUA benefits.

Benefits

Your weekly benefit amount is calculated by dividing the wages in the highest quarter of your base period (the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters) by 21, up to a maximum of \$763 per week. The minimum benefit for individuals eligible for DUA is \$227 per week. There is no minimum benefit for standard UI.

If you are partially unemployed, your weekly benefit amount is calculated the same as the above by using the amount of reduced income you are currently receiving.

Please ask DLIR if you have questions regarding your weekly benefit amount.

Duration of Benefits

For standard UI, individuals are initially eligible for 26 weeks of assistance starting from the week you lost your job.

For DUA, individuals are only eligible for 26 weeks after the date of disaster was declared by President Biden. So, DUA payments will be available until February 11, 2024.

How Can I File a Claim?

To apply for UI, please visit labor.hawaii.gov/ui or call at (833) 901-2272.

For individuals on Maui, call (808) 984-8400 or visit the Maui UI Office at 54 South High St., Rm 201 in Wailuku.

More Information

For more information, please visit <https://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/>.