

# Practical Resources for Unemployed

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:

### Purpose:

- The purpose of the Unemployment Insurance program is to provide temporary financial assistance to workers who are unemployed through no fault of their own and who meet the requirements of the Hawaii Employment Security Law. Unemployment insurance benefits are paid as a matter of legal entitlement and past employment, and not on the basis of need.

### How to apply?

- All offices are closed and are not taking paper applications due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- File your claim online at <http://huiclaims.hawaii.gov> (**Important Note:** Under “For Claimants” CLICK on “For New Claims, Please Complete This Form” link. DO NOT follow the step-by-step video that is listed, these are out of date)

When to file:

Monday - Friday 6:30am to 11:00pm; Weekends & Holidays 9:00am to 11:00pm

Tip: Because of the high volume of applications being submitted the site has been slow; apply either early in the morning or late in the evening.

### Information you need to apply:

- Social security number
- If not a U.S. citizen your alien registration number.
- Your employment information for the past 18 months, including employer’s name, address, zip-code, phone number, dates of employment, and reason for separation.
- Your bank account number and your bank’s routing number. Use your bank routing number and account information on your personal check. To deposit to a savings account, contact your financial institution to obtain the correct routing and account information.

### How do you get paid?

- Direct Deposit

## SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)

### What is SNAP?

- The SNAP program provides crucial food and nutritional support to qualifying low-income and needy households, and those making the transition from welfare to self-sufficiency.

### The Hawaii Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Program:

- The Hawaii Electronic Benefit Transfer (HI/EBT) system processes financial assistance benefits provided by BESSD. Payments distributed through this system are for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Temporary Assistance for Other Needy Families (TAONF), General Assistance (GA), Aid to the Aged, Blind or Disabled (AABD), Repatriates, Childcare, Employment and Training (E & T), First-To-Work (FTW) and the SNAP programs.
- Recipients receiving cash assistance may also choose to have their cash benefits directly deposited into their personal bank accounts.

### Who is Eligible?

- Households must meet specific eligibility requirements and provide proof of their statements about household circumstances. U.S. citizens and some aliens who are admitted for

permanent residency may qualify. Federal poverty guidelines are established by the Office of Management and Budget, and are updated annually by the Department of Health and Human Services.

### **How can you apply?**

- Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the telephone is the primary means to contact BESSD centers.
- If you visit a processing center, you will be directed to drop off your forms in the drop box and contact the office by phone. The number will be posted on a sign there for your convenience.
- Visit <http://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/1961-2/> to download a printable application.
- Once complete, you may print and sign, then mail it or drop it off at a processing center. Or, if able to place your signature on the page, you may scan or take a photo of the application and send it as an attachment to this email address:  
BESSD.StatewideBranch@dhs.hawaii.gov.

## **MED-QUEST**

### **What is Med-Quest?**

- Med-QUEST is a division of the Department of Human Services that provides healthcare benefits to Hawaii residents who are eligible for Medicaid. Medicaid provides health coverage to millions of Americans, including eligible low-income adults, children, pregnant women, elderly adults and people with disabilities.

### **Do you qualify?**

- The best way to know is to apply

### **How to apply?**

- Apply online at [www.mybenefits.hawaii.gov](http://www.mybenefits.hawaii.gov)
- Or over the phone at 1-877-628-5076
- Or by mail at the Med-QUEST Division eligibility office. (See website for addresses)

## **RESOURCE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

SBD ECONOMIC INJURY DISASTER LOAN & EMERGENCY GRANT

### **See website below for info on eligibility and how to apply:**

<https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus/small-businesses/sba-economic-injury-disaster-loan-and-emergency-grant>

## **HELPFUL INFO ON THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, and ECONOMIC SECURITY (CARES) ACT**

See website:

<https://www.nytimes.com/article/coronavirus-stimulus-package-questions-answers.html>