



Representative Lynn DeCoite

Hawaii House District 13: East Maui (Pa'ia, Haiku, Keanae, Nahiku, Hana, Kipahulu, Kaupo), Moloka'i, Lana'i, Kaho'olawe and Molokini

Aloha District 13 'Ohana!

It has been over a month since the Governor issued the "Stay at Home, Work from Home" Order and I know all of our lives have dramatically changed. Many of our 'Ohana have been without jobs and those that have been deemed "essential workers" have been carrying the weight of all of us on their shoulders, and while we are entering the phases of re-opening our economy and our communities, our lives are forever changed and it will take a while for us to truly recover.

I know many of you have been frustrated and upset while trying to apply for benefits from the State. I cannot make any excuses or give any justifications for delays in resources and answers. Luckily, with the extra support from state employees, the UI call center is now down to a 15 minute wait time. Please know that my staff and I have been working daily to provide you all with as much detailed and accurate information as possible in a timely manner and will continue to do so.

In this newsletter you'll find some resources that will hopefully be helpful on our road to recovery. Please count on my office as a resource as well, and if you have any questions please feel free to call or email.

I thank everyone who has been doing their part to comply with the State and County orders.

My Aloha,

Rep. Lynn DeCoite
District 13



(Top left) Rep. DeCoite with **General Moses Kaiwi** when he came to Molokai to check on the National Guard members that are currently serving on the Friendly Ise . (Top Right) One of the many Majority Caucus meetings via Zoom that has happened over the past month. (Bottom) Members of the **Molokai Support Initiative** organized by the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance, Rep Lynn DeCoite and Local Businesses came together to provide fresh fruit, vegetables and meals for community members. (Mahalo to Mickey Paule for the photos)



State UI Claims and the PUA Program

Filing Unemployment Claims

COVID-19 UNEMPLOYMENT LAW CHANGES - The Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) has made changes to the unemployment insurance law due to COVID-19. The changes include the following:

- Waived the one-week waiting period
- Suspended the requirement to search for three jobs weekly

A step-by-step guide is available to walk individuals through the process of filing, certifying and obtaining unemployment benefits at: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/blog/news/covid-19-unemployment-law-changes/>

To File a claim, go to: <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov> If you have questions, you're being asked to call the claims office nearest to you:

Maui: (808) 984-8400 or call the **UI Hotline: (833) 901-2275**

DLIR is asking anyone who needs to file weekly certifications for their unemployment claims to file on designated days based on their last names to avoid overloading the system. The schedule is:

A-G (Mondays) H-O (Tuesdays) P-Z (Wednesdays) with Thursday - Sunday designated as open days for anyone.

In addition, three distinct email addresses are available for claimants with specific challenges with their claims:

- To have your claim backdated. Please email dlir.ui.backdate@hawaii.gov
- If you received an email, letter, or other message (screenshot) that says that they are disqualified from UI. Please Email dlir.ui.disqualified@hawaii.gov
- To request language assistance from UI should send their full name, telephone number (including area code), and the language that would like to receive interpretation services for to Dlir.ui.languageassistance@hawaii.gov

The following phone numbers are for resetting passwords and making appointments for over-the-phone applications:

Password reset: (808) 762-5751 Phone appointments: (808) 762-5752

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)

The federal government's CARES Act provides a separate program for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) that extends eligibility to individuals who normally do not qualify for traditional unemployment benefits (e.g., self-employed, gig workers). This website will help you complete the PUA pre-application. <https://pua.hawaii.gov/>

The PUA Program extends eligibility to individuals who:

- are self-employed, including gig workers, freelancers, and independent contractors;
- are seeking part-time employment;
- have an insufficient work history to qualify for benefits;
- have exhausted all rights to regular or extended benefits under state or federal law or to Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC);
- have been laid off from churches and religious institutions and are not eligible for benefits under state law; or
- are otherwise not qualified for regular or extended benefits or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)

If you meet the above eligibility criteria, you can use the website to submit a PUA pre-application. As of April 27, 2020, **pre-applications can be submitted, but they are NOT being processed. By May 15, 2020, additional features will be added to process your application, and you will be sent an email with additional information.**

IMPORTANT: The information you submit, including income, will be validated against the Hawaii tax records. If your data does not match, it will delay processing of your application.

Additional State Resources

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP is a federal assistance program that provides crucial food and nutritional support to qualifying low-income and needy households.

Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF)

TANF provides monthly cash benefits to families for food, clothing, shelter, and other essentials. To qualify for this assistance, a family must include children under the age of 19.

To apply for SNAP and/or TANF benefits

- Go to the Hawaii Department of Human Services website (<https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/>) and complete the digital fillable/printable application form.
 - There are 3 ways to submit your application: Drop off – paper form, U.S. Postal Mail – paper form or Email – digital form
- Paper form – Once complete, you may print and sign the form, then mail it, or drop it off at a processing center as noted above.
- Digital form – Once complete, you may email the digital form WITH or WITHOUT a signature, as an attachment to BESSD.StatewideBranch@dhs.hawaii.gov. Forms that are not signed will be verified over the phone by an eligibility worker, so remember to include your phone number.

Processing Centers for District 13 Residents

MAUI—State Building, 54 High Street #125 Wailuku, HI 96793
808-984-8300

MOLOKAI UNIT—55 Makaena Place Rm. 1 Kaunakakai, HI 96748 808-553-1715

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 70 Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LANAI SUB-UNIT—30 Lanai Avenue Lanai City, HI 96763
808-565-7102 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 631374 Lanai City, HI 96763

MED-Quest

MED-Quest is the State of Hawaii's health insurance program for eligible low-income adults and children to access healthcare and medical treatment through managed care plans.

To Apply Go On-line to mybenefits.hawaii.gov

- Complete pre-assessment form to find out whether your family qualifies
- Follow the steps by creating an account, logging in, and filling out the application.

Or Call 1-877-628-5076 to apply over the phone

You can also call your local Med-QUEST Division Eligibility office.

MAUI SECTION 808-243-5780 or 808-243-5788 MOLOKAI UNIT 808-553-1758, 808-553-3833 LANAI UNIT 808-565-7102

Have you filled out your 2020 Census yet?

2020 Census is extending its Field Data Collection to October 31, 2020

Respond now online: <https://my2020census.gov> or Respond by phone: (844) 330-2020

****Your unique Census I.D. is important in responding to the 2020 Census****

CENSUS I.D. We would like to remind everyone about the importance of your unique Census I.D. If you have received your Census invitation on the mail with your Census I.D., please go online, over the phone or submit your paper questionnaire.

However, if you have not yet received your Census I.D., especially **if you have a P.O. Box**, we ask that you kindly wait until mid-June when we hope to get back to the field and safely deliver your Census packet to your door.

Also, if anyone received duplicate invitations at one residence but with different Household I.D. numbers to please let our office know and send a picture of both invitations.

Rumors. There is a rumor going around the country that census responses might be used to determine eligibility for government benefits, including any potential stimulus package. **This is FALSE.** Please check the rumors page at <https://2020census.gov/en/newsevents/rumors.html>.



Office of Representative Lynn DeCoite

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 441
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: (808) 586-6790

Neighbor Island Toll Free:
Maui-984-2400 ext. 6-6790
Lana'i & Moloka'i 1-800-468-4644
E-mail: repdecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov

 RepDeCoite

Sign Up for District 13 Email Updates!

Are you on the District 13 Email Update list? As many of you are aware, my office sends out e-mail updates to the District 13 community about legislation, government news/ announcements, programs/ resources and community events.

During this COVID-19 pandemic I was sending out daily updates with local resources for our communities.

The Email Updates are the quickest way for me to get information directly to you.

If you would like to be added to the list, please call my office (808)586-6790

or send your email to decoite2@capitol.hawaii.gov

Local Resources and websites during COVID-19

Maui County COVID-19 Hotline

Have questions about Maui County COVID-19 regulations and orders? Call the County Hotline at

(808) 270-7855

Mon- Fri - 7am - 7pm

Sat & Sun - 9am - 4pm

The County of Maui is sponsoring a new website with information and resources for residents and businesses at

www.COVID19MauiNui.com

Also check these community based websites

- Haiku/ Paia— Common Ground Collective <https://www.commongroundcollective.com>
- Hana— www.hanamau.com
- Lanai— www.lanai96763.com
- Molokai—Molokai COVID-19 Relief Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/molokaicovid19relief/>