



FAQs for UCFE Furlough Workers

I was recently furloughed from my federal job. Should I file for unemployment?

Yes. If you've been furloughed from a federal job, you should file an unemployment claim as soon as possible.

Note: If you receive unemployment benefits now and are later paid by your federal agency for this same time period, you will be required to repay those unemployment benefits.

Where should I file my unemployment claim?

File your claim in **Hawaii** if any of the following apply:

- Your last official duty station was in Hawaii.
- You live in Hawaii and your last duty station was **outside the United States**.
- You live in Hawaii, worked for a federal employer in another state, and then worked in **non-federal employment** in Hawaii.

Note: Your duty station is listed on your SF-50, line 46.

If none of these apply, file in the state where your duty station is located or, if your **duty station** was outside the U.S., in your **state of residence**.

What documents do I need to apply?

When filing your claim, have the following ready:

- **SF-8** – Notice to Federal Employee About Unemployment Insurance
- **SF-50** – Notification of Personnel Action (duty station is on line 46)
- **W-2s** and/or recent **pay stubs**

Federal wages are not stored in Hawaii's system. We will request your wage information from your federal employer. If they do not respond within **12 days**, we may use your provided documents to establish your claim.

Do I need to submit proof of earnings?

Yes. Use the electronic document upload online through the [claimant portal](#) or in-person at your local claims office.

- SF-8
- SF-50
- Recent pay stubs

Submit these documents as soon as possible. If your federal employer does not respond, we will use your documents to process your claim.

Do I have to look for work while furloughed?

No. If you are still attached to your regular employer, not working, or working less than your full-time hours due to a lack of work and your earnings are less than your weekly benefit amount, you are considered partially unemployed.

I worked for a private company or state agency under a federal contract. Can I apply?

Yes. If you lost your job with a private company or state agency that held a federal contract, you may be eligible for unemployment benefits. File your claim at <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/>.

How long will it take to receive benefits?

- Federal agencies have 12 days to provide your wage information.
- If they don't respond, we may use your documents to establish your claim.
- Benefits are typically paid within 22 days of filing or renewing a claim, unless there's an issue under review.
- If an issue arises, it may take 4–6 weeks to resolve. You'll be contacted if more information is needed.

How long does my claim last?

Your unemployment claim is active for one year. This is called your benefit year. During this time, you can receive benefits for up to 26 weeks.

When your claim starts

Your claim starts on the Sunday of the week you file it. If you wait to file after losing your job, you will not get benefits for the weeks before you filed.

Waiting period week

Everyone must serve a waiting week, which is usually the first week of your benefit year. You must file a weekly claim request and meet all eligibility requirements for the waiting week, but you will not be paid.

How does earning money affect my weekly benefits?

You can earn up to \$150 a week and still get your full weekly benefit amount. If you earn more than your weekly benefit amount, you will not receive benefits for that week.

If we pay you less than you expect

Your weekly benefits would change if you earned more than \$150 during the week claimed, but less than your weekly benefit amount.

Disqualified claims

If you earn more than your weekly benefit amount, your claim for that week will say “disqualified.” This means you will not get benefits for that week claimed.

Am I eligible if I'm still working full-time but not being paid during a shutdown?

No. If you are still working full-time—even without pay—you are not considered unemployed and are not eligible for benefits.

Unemployment Insurance (UI) Call Center

(808) 762-5752 or (833) 901-2272 (toll-free)

UI Website: [Labor.Hawaii.gov/UI](https://labor.hawaii.gov/UI)

TTD/TTY: Dial 711; ask for (808) 586-8842

Oahu Claims Office

830 Punchbowl St
Room 110
Honolulu, HI
96813-5080

Hilo Claims Office

1990 Kinoole St
Room 101
Hilo, HI
96720-5293

Kona Claims Office

Ashikawa Building
81-990 Halekii St
Room 2087
Kealahou, HI
96750-0167

Maui Claims Office

54 South High St
Room 201
Wailuku, HI
96793-2198

Kauai Claims Office

4370 Kukui Grove St
Suite 3-214
Lihue, HI
96766-2001