



# Joy A. San Buenaventura

## State Representative

### District 4, Puna

Legislative Session Newsletter

April/May 2020

Aloha,

The people of Puna are resilient, having weathered through a hurricane and two lava disasters in the past six years, so we will weather this crisis too. The end of session newsletter normally states what we in the Hawaii State Legislature have accomplished, but because of the COVID-19 crisis, the 2020 legislative session has been on indefinite recess since mid-March 2020 and we are working remotely.

During this crisis, we still have civic duties to perform other than to help family and friends stay healthy; and that is to participate in the Census and cast your vote. The 2020 election will be conducted by mail-in ballots in Hawaii, which is appropriate during this time of social distancing. When you receive a yellow notice from the Office of Elections, please verify and update your voter information. Your vote and your participation in the Census will affect Puna's political representation and access to federal funding and for the next 10 years.

During times of stress, increased violence and alcohol/drug use occur. Please stay connected to friends and family. Individuals who need help can text the Hawaii Department of Health hotline at (605) 956-5680 or speak with someone at (808) 531-3371 or 1-800-690-6200.

My staff and I will continue to keep you informed. Stay healthy and stay safe.

Sincerely,

Joy A. San Buenaventura  
repsanbuenaventura@capitol.hawaii.gov



repjoydistrict4



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#### Disclaimer:

*Due to the rapid benefits, grants, and loans being made available prior to and during the printing of this newsletter, please check [schatz.senate.gov](http://schatz.senate.gov) for all federal benefits, [ehawaii.gov](http://ehawaii.gov) for the latest information with the Department of Health and Department of Labor and [capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=SanBuenaventura](http://capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=SanBuenaventura) for newsletter info detailing weekly available benefits. For more timely updates, sign up for my e-newsletter at [www.bit.ly/repjoynewsletter](http://www.bit.ly/repjoynewsletter)*

## GUIDE TO ECONOMIC INJURY SUPPORT

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act expands the Small Business Administration's long-standing Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL). The EIDL program was created to assist businesses, renters, and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters.

### Who is eligible and how can I apply?

In general, all of the following entities that have suffered substantial economic injury caused by a disaster provided they were in existence on January 31, 2020: Businesses with fewer than 500 employees; cooperatives, ESOPs, tribal small businesses with fewer than 500 employees; sole proprietors; independent contractors; and most private nonprofits. Apply online at [SBA.gov/disaster](http://SBA.gov/disaster)

### What are the loan parameters?

The maximum EIDL is a \$2 million working capital loan at a rate of 3.75% for businesses and 2.75% for nonprofits with up to a 30-year term. Payments on Coronavirus EIDL loans are deferred for one year. Up to \$200,000 can be approved without a personal guarantee. Approval can be based on a credit score and no first-year tax returns are required. Borrowers do not have to prove they could not get credit elsewhere. No collateral is required for loans of \$25,000 or less. For loans of more than \$25,000, general security interest in business assets will be used for collateral instead of real estate. The borrowers must allow the SBA to review its tax records.

### How can I access an emergency \$10,000 grant?

Eligible applicants for an EIDL can receive a \$10,000 emergency grant within three days of application (through Dec. 31). There is no obligation to repay the grant. To receive the \$10,000 emergency grant, it is not necessary to have an approved EIDL loan. However, if you are able to secure a PPP loan, the \$10,000 grant will be subtracted from the forgiveness amount. Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) created by the CARES Act prohibits borrowers from taking out two loans for the same purpose.

### Do farmers and ranchers qualify as a small business under SBA regulations?

Yes, they are eligible to apply for the SBA paycheck protection loan program. The CARES Act also provides \$9.5 billion to the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) to support agricultural producers impacted by the coronavirus. The USDA has not yet provided details on how to apply and how much funding producers can get from the program. Information on the Emergency Agricultural Loan Program is posted at [hdoa.hawaii.gov/agl](http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/agl). For more info, call the Agricultural Loan Division - Hilo at (808) 933-9975. Companies may not receive payments from

## GUIDE TO UNEMPLOYMENT CLAIMS

### When does my claim start?

Your claim begins from the Sunday of the week in which you apply. Please note that the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) will backdate claims and deposit unemployment benefits for eligible individuals that were unable to file their claims due to the overload on the online filing system.

### How much do I qualify for and how long can I collect?

Your weekly benefit amount (WBA) is calculated by dividing the wages in the highest quarter of your base period by 21. The standard base period is the first 4 of the last 5 completed calendar quarters immediately preceding the effective date of your claim. You can be paid for only 26 weeks of total unemployment during the one-year period following the effective date of the claim. Try out the benefit estimator tool at [labor.hawaii.gov/ui/faq/](http://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/faq/)

### How long until I get my unemployment check?

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the period between filing a claim and receiving a check was about three weeks. DLIR has reported that it has successfully reduced the turnaround from 21 days to 16 days and is trying to reduce further to 14 days.

### How do I apply?

Apply at [huiclaims.hawaii.gov](http://huiclaims.hawaii.gov). You may also call 833-901-2252 to set up a phone appointment or ask a question. It is recommended that you have the contact information and dates of employment for all of your employers over the past 18 months.

## GUIDE TO FOOD RESOURCES

There are handful of food resources available for adults, kupuna, and keiki. Below is an illustrative list of food resources that are available:

**Grab-and-go Breakfast and Lunch – Meal Pickup Service** | Keonepoko Elementary, Pahoa High and Intermediate School, and Keaau High School are serving grab-and-go breakfasts and lunches. Meals will be served to students 18 years and under regardless of qualification for free meals. Pick-ups are Mon through Fri 7:30am to 8am for breakfast, 11:30am to 12pm for lunch. Children must be present.

**SNAP (Food Stamps)** | The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is a federal program administered by the Hawaii Department of Human Services. The program provides crucial food and nutritional support to qualifying low-income and needy households, and those making the transition from welfare to self-sufficiency. Learn more at [www.humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/snap/](http://www.humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/snap/)

**The Food Basket Inc. – Food Resource** | The Food Basket is an island wide, supplemental food network that collects and distributes nutritious, high quality food to low income households, the working poor, the disabled, the ill, senior citizens, and children. Due to the Coronavirus, please call ahead to food pantries or soup kitchens before visiting as the times and location may have changed in response to the crisis. For more information, please contact 808-933-6030 or fill out the contact form on their website: [www.hawaiifoodbasket.org](http://www.hawaiifoodbasket.org)

**Hawaii County Nutrition Program – Meal Delivery Service** | The Hawaii County Nutrition program provides meals to kupuna who are home bound due to illness or injury. Kupuna must be age 60 and older. Please call 808-961-8726 for more information.

**Our Kupuna – Food Resource** | Our Kupuna is a free service provided by volunteers interested in helping kupuna in their community. The volunteer is matched to a kupuna (over age 65 years old). The volunteer will check in with the kupuna once a week and shop for food and necessary supplies, so the kupuna does not have to leave their home. The kupuna is responsible for reimbursing the sponsor for the cost of the items via cash/check (no credit cards allowed). Kupuna will need to apply online at [www.ourkupuna.com](http://www.ourkupuna.com). Phone: 808-400-4506

**Internet and telephone services providers in Hawaii** have taken the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) "Keep Americans Connected Pledge" to, for 60 days from March 16:

- **Not terminate service to any residential or small business customers** because of inability to pay bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic
- **Waive any late fees** that any residential or small business customers incur because of economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic and **open its Wi-Fi hotspots to any American who needs them.**



Providers include: AT&T; Charter (Spectrum); Hawaiian Telcom; Hughes; Sprint; T-Mobile; Verizon; and Viasat. Visit [cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/dcca-designated-wifi-hotspots/](http://cca.hawaii.gov/broadband/dcca-designated-wifi-hotspots/) for more info.



**VOTE**

**July 9 - Voter Registration** | Final day voter registration is accepted online or by mail for the Primary Election.

**July 21 - Mail Ballot Packet** | Look for your Primary Election mail ballot packet to be delivered.

**July 27 - Voter Service Center** | Voter Service Centers are open through Election Day. Services include in-person voting.

**Aug 8 - Primary Election** | Ballots must be received by 7 pm.

**Oct 5 - Voter Registration** | Final day voter registration is accepted online or by mail for the General Election.

**Oct 16 - Mail Ballot Packet** | Look for your General Election mail ballot to be delivered.

**Oct 20 - Voter Service Center** | Voter Service Centers are open through Election Day. Services include in-person voting.

**Nov 3 - General Election** | Ballots must be received by 7 pm.

For more information call Hawaii County Clerk at 808-961-8277 or visit [elections.hawaii.gov](http://elections.hawaii.gov)

**GUIDE TO EVICTIONS AND FORECLOSURES**

**Can I be evicted from my residence during the emergency period?**

Governor David Ige’s April 16th Proclamation includes an eviction moratorium -- which prevents any eviction from a residential dwelling for failure to pay rent. Previously, all eviction proceedings and pending eviction orders were suspended with the closure of the Hawai’i State Judiciary during the COVID-19 crisis.

**Can my landlord increase my rent during the emergency period?**

The March 4th Proclamation prohibits rent increases unless the rent increase was pursuant to a provision contained in the rental agreement.

**Are foreclosures halted during the emergency period?**

Foreclosure proceedings (legal process by which lender takes action against borrower) have been placed on hold until April 30, 2020 by orders of the Hawaii State Judiciary.

**Do I have to keep paying my mortgage during the emergency period?**

The existing proclamations do not halt mortgage payments. There does not appear to be any authority in the law that would allow the Governor to halt mortgage payments. Such actions across the country have been undertaken in cooperation with private lenders, or through the federal government granting forbearance on Fannie and Freddie mortgages, which comprise about one half of the mortgages in the country. For more information, visit: [www.freddiemac.com/about/covid-19.html](http://www.freddiemac.com/about/covid-19.html)

**GUIDE TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS**

**Does everyone need to wear a face mask now?**

Governor David Ige’s April 16th Proclamation strongly encourages the use of face coverings per CDC guidance. The CDC recommends wearing a cloth face covering in public settings particularly where other physical distancing measures are difficult to maintain such as grocery stores, pharmacies, and takeout food establishments. Masks complement other physical distancing measures, which are the most effect means of containing community spread. Remember, my facemask protects you and your facemask protects me.

**I lost my employer-provided health insurance. What do I do?**

Go online to [medical.mybenefits.hawaii.gov](http://medical.mybenefits.hawaii.gov) and complete the pre-assessment form to find out what your household qualifies for. Note: Unemployment benefits and stimulus checks DO NOT count towards your monthly income in this case. Follow the steps to create an account, log in, and complete the application. When your application is received, HealthCare.gov will contact you to let you know how to apply for private coverage and any tax credits you qualify for. You may also call 1-877-628-5076 to apply by phone.

**Need help? Know someone who does?**

If you, or someone you care about, are feeling overwhelmed with emotions like sadness, depression, or anxiety, or feel like you want to harm yourself or others: Call the Disaster Distress Helpline at 1-800-985-5990, or text TalkWithUs to 66746; call the National Domestic Violence

**CENSUS 2020**  
How Hawaii residents can prepare for the upcoming Census

**WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE MAIL**  
When it is time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

**RESPOND**  
Households can respond online, by mail or by phone.

**WHAT TO DO:**  
Scan the QR code with your phone camera for more information about how to respond:  
[2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond](https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond)

**TOGETHER...**  
We can ensure that Hawaii receives the federal funding we deserve.

**THE CENSUS DETERMINES:**  
The flow of power and money in the US for the next 10 years.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

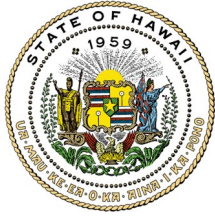
**MARCH**  
Households will receive official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census.

**APRIL 1ST**  
Census Day is observed nationwide. By this day, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

**MAY - JULY**  
Census officials will visit homes that have not responded to the 2020 census to help make sure everyone is counted.

**START HERE**  
Shape your future

For each person that does not get counted, our community can lose out on up to \$4,000 in federal funding per year, for the next 10 years.



**Representative Joy San Buenaventura**  
 415 S. Beretania Street, Room 442  
 Honolulu, HI 96813

### Support Food Establishments in Puna

Please consider ordering take-out from a food establishment in Puna. When we support our local businesses, we keep our neighbors employed. Below is a partial list of places that are still open:

<b>Restaurants</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Delivery?</b>
<b>Big Island Mexican Foods</b>	16-203 Wiliama Pl	(808) 966-7595	No
<b>Black Rock Cafe</b>	15-2872 Government Main Rd	(808) 965-1177	No
<b>Blane's Drive Inn</b>	127 Orchid Land Dr	(808) 982-9800	Yes
<b>Boogie Woogie Pizza</b>	15-2937 Pahoia Village Rd	(808) 965-5575	No
<b>Burger King</b>	15-1450 Kahakai Blvd	(808) 965-3195	No
<b>Dimple Cheek Café &amp; Market</b>	17-4003 Ahuahu Pl	(808) 731-6870	No
<b>International Grindz Café</b>	15-2937 Pahoia Village Rd	(808) 965-5575	No
<b>Island Naturals Market &amp; Deli</b>	15-1870 Akeakamai Loop	(808) 965-8322	No
<b>Kalapana Smoothie Shack</b>	12-5038 Kalapana-Kapoho Rd	(808) 987-7247	No
<b>Kaleo's Bar &amp; Grill</b>	15-2969 Pahoia Village Rd	(808) 965-5600	Yes
<b>Kurtistown Café</b>	17-353 Volcano Rd	(808) 966-7588	No
<b>Liquid Life</b>	16-566 Keaa-Pahoia Rd	(808) 238-5161	Yes
<b>Luquins Mexican Restaurant</b>	15-1448 Kahakai Blvd	(808) 333-3390	No
<b>Ma'ona Lunch Counter</b>	16-203 Wiliama Pl	(808) 640-4244	No
<b>McDonald's</b>	16-565 Old Volcano Rd	(808) 966-8812	No
<b>Mighty Sushi</b>	15-2668 Keaa-Pahoia Rd	(808) 965-9881	No
<b>Mt View Bakery Inc</b>	18-1319 Old Volcano Rd	(808) 968-6353	No
<b>Nicoco Hawaiian Gelato</b>	15-2929 Pahoia Village Rd	(808) 965-6554	Yes
<b>Nings Thai Cuisine</b>	15-2955 Pahoia Village Rd	(808) 965-7611	No
<b>Pahoia Fresh Fish</b>	15-2670 Keaa Pahoia Rd	(808) 965-8248	No
<b>Pahoia Smoothie Shack</b>	15-2891 Pahoia Village Rd	(808) 464-4239	No
<b>Paolo's Bistro</b>	15-2955 Pahoia Village Rd	(808) 965-7033	No
<b>Pho' 19</b>	15-2874 Pahoia Village Rd	(808) 965-9533	No
<b>Pizza Hut</b>	16-586 Old Volcano Rd	(808) 643-1111	Yes
<b>Spoonful Café</b>	16-569 Old Volcano Rd	(808) 982-8899	No
<b>Subway</b>	16-586 Old Volcano Rd	(808) 982-8969	No
<b>The Coffee Bean &amp; Tea Leaf</b>	16-586 Old Volcano Rd	(808) 966-5861	No
<b>Tin Shack Bakery</b>	15-1500 Akeakamai Loop	(808) 965-9659	No
<b>Uncle's Kitchen</b>	12-5038 Kalapana-Kapoho Rd	(808) 987-7247	No
<b>Yasuhiro Sushi</b>	16-586 Old Volcano Rd	(808) 982-3551	No