COVID-19 HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, NON-PROFITS, VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

I. General Resources

Small Business Administration - Hawaii District Office
Phone: (808) 541-2990
Email: hawaiigeneral@sba.gov
Website: https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/hi/honolulu

Hawaii Small Business Development Center – Oahu Center
Phone: (808) 945-1430
Email: joseph.burns@hisbdc.org
Web Site: http://www.hisbdc.org

Patsy Mink Women’s Business Development Center
Phone: (808) 695-2635
Email: mcbl@ywcaoahu.org
Website: https://www.mcblhawaii.org

Liliu’okalani Trust
Phone: (808) 203-6150
Email: covid19sbasupport@onipaa.org
Website: https://onipaa.org

Hawaii Alliance of Non-Profit Organizations (HANO)
Phone: (808) 529-0466
Email: info@hano-hawaii.org
Website: https://hano-hawaii.org/covid-19/
Free SBA Loan Assistance: https://hano-hawaii.org/covid-19/#technical-assistance

Veterans Business Centers
Phone: (808) 988-1236
Email: vboc@hawaii.edu
Website: https://hilo.hawaii.edu/vboc

For further information, please contact Esther Kiaʻāina, Executive Director of the Pacific Basin Development Council, at esther@pacificbasindevelopment.org or (808) 233-9741.
II. Congressional Resources and Federal Grants

1. Contact Congress to Affect COVID-19 Aid

   A. Policy

      • You can propose future solutions or identify any gaps in current COVID-19 federal efforts, including the CARES Act, and notify the Hawaii Congressional Delegation.

   B. Funding

      • You can affect the FY 2021 Appropriations Process, and possibly ask for the redirect of federal funding for specific COVID-19 initiatives with the Hawaii Congressional delegation.

      • If you are a current federal grantee, you may ask for flexibility from your awarding agency, including the redirect of current funds to align with COVID-19 specified initiatives. Contact your Hawaii Congressional delegation if you need help on this or future support letters.

2. Additional Help You Can Seek from Hawaii Congressional Delegation

   A. Casework – if you need help with navigating a program in a federal agency;

   B. Policy Issue – you can convey your support or non-support for a certain issue, including the kind of assistance needed in a CARES-2 Act;
C. **Federal Funding** – you can ask them for
   - A letter of support for a federal grant application ([https://www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov));
   - Request program funding during the annual Congressional appropriations process.

   **NOTE:** While the deadline has passed for FY 2021 appropriations requests, that deadline was set before the COVID-19 pandemic, and they may be reconsidering the budget for next year; and

D. **Federal Information Sharing** – they can update you on important issues or programs or you can also ask them to get further information for you on a federal issue. For example, all of them have COVID-19 Web pages.

**U.S. Senator Brian Schatz**

[https://www.schatz.senate.gov/contact](https://www.schatz.senate.gov/contact) (How to Contact the Senator)

**U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono**

[https://www.hirono.senate.gov/contact](https://www.hirono.senate.gov/contact) (How to Contact Senator)

**U.S. Congressman Ed Case**

[https://case.house.gov/contact](https://case.house.gov/contact) (How to Contact Congressman)

**U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard**

[https://gabbard.house.gov/connect](https://gabbard.house.gov/connect) (How to Contact Congresswoman)

**Recommendation:** Sign up for e-newsletters from the Hawaii Congressional Delegation Members to have COVID updates sent to your email.

3. **Assistance from Congressional Leaders**

Congress is already talking about a CARES-2 act. Contact the national leadership via email and let them know what you need for your business/non-profit/organization to pull through this pandemic and continue long term operations.
4. Apply for a Federal Grant and/or Revise Existing Grants

A. Current grantees should contact the federal awarding agency to touch bases about any flexibility or extensions of the administration of your current grant, including any discretion to reprogram funds.

B. Federal grants are available for a variety of non-profit organizations and specialized for-profit businesses. Research the availability of federal assistance and their deadlines at:
   - https://www.grants.gov for organizations and

III. Unemployment Resources

1. Unemployment for Employees

A. $600 Increase - There will be an additional $600 each week for state-paid unemployment compensation for those who already qualify (Section 2104). That is an additional $2400 a month. With the current maximum weekly benefit of $648 per week, the total amount that an individual could get is $1248 a week or $4,992 a month.

B. Extension – There is an extension of unemployment compensation by 13 weeks beyond the eligibility time states provide under current law (Section 2107). So instead of the normal 26 weeks, the duration of unemployment coverage will extend for 39 weeks.
2. Unemployment for Employers, Independent Contractors, "Gig" Workers

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance – A temporary pandemic unemployment assistance program was established under the CARES Act which matches the normal state unemployment rate plus $600 for unemployed workers who would not normally be eligible (Section 2102).  https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200405

These unemployment benefits are extended to self-employed workers, independent contractors, and those with limited work history for up to 39 weeks of employment through the end of 2020, fully funded by the federal government.

For further information, please go to Hawaii’s Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) at: https://labor.hawaii.gov/ or to file claims at: https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/#/

Because the DLIR closed its office to walk in service, if you have questions, please call:

(808) 762-5752
(833) 901-2252
(833) 901-2275

Claims Offices:

Oahu (808) 586-8970
Hilo (808) 974-4086
Kona (808) 322-4822
Maui (808) 984-8400
Kauai (808) 274-3043

IV. Agricultural Resources

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture

   A. General Updates: https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus

   B. Resource Guide:


2. U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

   https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus
3. U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
   https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus/agriculture

4. Hawai`i Farmer’s Bureau
   http://covid19.hfbf.org/

5. Hawai`i Department of Agriculture
   A. Agriculture Loan Division: https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/agl/