

HAWAII ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

TITLE 17

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

SUBTITLE 6

BENEFIT, EMPLOYMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

CHAPTER 803.6

MAUI RELIEF PROGRAM (MRP) FOR WILDFIRE DISASTER
SURVIVORS

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Historical Note: Chapter 17-803.6 is based
substantially upon chapter 17-803.5 Non-recurring
Short-term (NRST) Benefits for Wildfire Disaster
Survivors [Eff 08/01/25; R 10/01/25]

SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§17-803.6-1 Purpose. (a) The purpose of this chapter is to establish the rules governing the administration and implementation of the Maui Relief Program (MRP) that provides non-recurring short-term benefits to address the financial needs of households who were impacted by the declared wildfire emergency that occurred on August 8, 2023.

(b) MRP benefits for eligible households with dependent children shall be paid with federal funds.

(c) MRP benefits for eligible households with only adult household members shall be paid with non-federal funds.

(d) These emergency rules shall be effective upon filing with the Lieutenant Governor's office; provided that the conditions set out in these rules shall apply retroactively as of October 1, 2025.

[Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-803.6-2 Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter:

"Adult" means a person:

- (1) Aged eighteen or over who is not a dependent child;
- (2) Under age eighteen who is a parent and a minor head-of-household living with and caring for a dependent child; or
- (3) A pregnant woman, aged eighteen or over, without a dependent child who is in the third trimester of pregnancy.

"Applicant" means the responsible adult who applies for benefits described in this chapter on behalf of their household.

"Automobile" means a four-wheeled personal automotive vehicle designed for passenger transportation.

"Department" or "DHS" means the department of human services, State of Hawaii.

"Department's designee" means a service provider contracted by the department to administer and deliver the benefits and services described in this chapter.

"Dependent child" means a child under eighteen years of age who is in the care of a specified relative.

"Disaster assistance organization" means a state or local government or community-based organization that provides emergency or disaster relief assistance payments to residents who were affected by the emergency wildfire disaster.

"Excluded individual" means an individual who shares living expenses such as, but not limited to rent or mortgage, utility expenses, or automobile payments, and resides with the applicant household but is not included for eligibility determination in accordance with sections 17-803.6-3 and 17-803.6-5.

"Federal Emergency Management Agency" or "FEMA" means the federal entity whose responsibility is to coordinate community preparedness for potential emergency disaster and respond upon the declaration of an emergency disaster by the U.S. President.

"Fraud" means willfully providing a false statement or misrepresentation of a fact or concealing or withholding facts which results in the receipt of an MRP benefit that would not otherwise result without the false statement or withheld facts, or any action by an individual for the purpose of establishing or maintaining eligibility or for increasing or preventing a reduction in benefits.

"Household" means one or more individuals who:

- (1) Reside in the same housing unit that is claimed as their primary residence;

- (2) Share living expenses such as, but not limited to rent or mortgage, utility expenses, and food; and
- (3) Are requesting benefits described in this chapter.

"Household member" means an individual who resides with the applicant and requests benefits.

"Long-term housing" means a housing unit where the household will reside for a minimum of twelve months and will be the household's primary residence. A housing structure may be an apartment unit, condominium unit, townhouse, mobile home, or single- or multi-family house.

"Maui Relief Program benefits" or "MRP benefits" means benefits:

- (1) Provided to address a household's specific financial crisis situation or episode of financial need;
- (2) Not intended to meet a household's recurring or ongoing needs; and
- (3) Are short-term and will not extend beyond four months.

"Non-federal funds" means funds not appropriated and awarded by the U.S. federal government or its agencies.

"Primary residence" means the single residence designated as the household's permanent or long-term home.

"School-aged" means a dependent child who attends elementary, middle, or intermediate, secondary school, or post-secondary school such as a college, university, or vocational or employment training program.

"Specified relative" means an adult who exercises responsibility for the care and parental control of a dependent child who resides in the same household. Persons considered to be specified relatives shall include natural and adoptive parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, grandparents, nieces, nephews, and cousins, including persons who are related by marriage such as stepparents, step siblings, step grandparents,

step aunts, step uncles, step nieces, step nephews, and step cousins.

"Short-term housing" means a housing unit intended to provide a household with a temporary living arrangement for less than twelve months. Short-term housing may include but is not limited to a transient accommodation, vacation rental unit, hotel room, and bed and breakfast home.

"Temporary Assistance for Needy Families" or "TANF" program means the federal funded financial assistance grant, Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance 93.558, administered by the department in accordance with 42 U.S.C. §§601-619 and section 346-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes. [Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-803.6-3 General requirements. (a) A household may be eligible to receive MRP benefits if the following requirements are met:

- (1) The household experienced property loss or damage, or physical place of employment was lost or damaged which resulted in a reduction of earnings or employment loss, as the direct result of the emergency;
- (2) The applicant or at least one household member is:
 - (A) A U.S. citizen;
 - (B) A qualified immigrant in accordance with section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and 8 U.S.C. 1641; or
 - (C) An individual, who is lawfully residing in the U.S. in accordance with section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association between the U.S. government and the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of

Palau, and is a citizen of one of these three nations, and is eligible for federal funded public benefits pursuant to the Compact Impact Fairness Act of 2023;

- (3) All the household members are residents of Hawaii and physically residing in the state; and
- (4) The household's total gross income does not exceed three hundred fifty per cent of the 2023 Hawaii Federal Poverty Level, established in Exhibit I, entitled "Maui Relief Program for Wildfire Disaster Survivors - Income Limits for Eligibility", attached at the end of this chapter.

(b) The MRP benefits shall not duplicate any emergency and disaster relief assistance the household received from FEMA, the American Red Cross, or other disaster assistance organization, or any other non-disaster assistance provided by public or private organizations that duplicates MRP benefits described in this chapter. [Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-803.6-4 Application processing requirements.

(a) A household shall complete and submit a department-prescribed application form, and supporting documents to verify information provided on the application form when requested by the department or department's designee.

(b) The applicant shall be the primary contact person for the household's application and shall sign the application form under penalty of law that all the information needed to establish eligibility for the MRP benefits, as stated on the application form, is true and correct.

(c) A household member shall not be eligible for MRP benefits in more than one household unit. In

instances where a dependent child or adult member resides in multiple household units, the applicant must verify that the dependent child or adult member has not received benefits in another household unit, in accordance with this chapter or preceding chapters. An application under this chapter may be amended to remove a dependent child or adult member pursuant to section 17-803.6-5(c) if the department determines that the dependent child or adult member has been issued payments, in accordance with this chapter or preceding chapters, in another household's approved application. Such an adjustment to the household's application shall not be subject to review pursuant to section 17-803.6-8 without documentation showing that the dependent child or adult member would not receive duplicate benefits.

(d) The date of the application shall be the date the department's designee receives the completed and signed application form.

(e) A decision on a household's completed application for MRP benefits shall be made by the department's designee within forty-five calendar days from the date the application was received; provided that, and at the department's discretion, the department or department's designee is unable to determine eligibility for the following reasons:

- (1) There are factors contributing to the delay that are beyond the control of the applicant, such as documentation to support the verification of information on the application that are not readily accessible to the household due to the wildfire disaster; or
- (2) An administrative emergency arises that cannot be controlled by the department or department's designee.

(f) An applicant who is requested to submit additional information or verification to establish eligibility shall be given ten calendar days from the date the department's designee makes the request for additional information or verifying documents. An

extension beyond the ten-day period may be granted, at the discretion of the department or department's designee, if the delay in providing the requested information or verifying documents is beyond the control of the applicant.

(g) An applicant who fails to provide the necessary information and verification to establish eligibility within the time limits established in this section shall be ineligible for MRP benefits.

(h) A household, who was determined eligible for MRP benefits, shall report any changes to the household's circumstances that may affect their eligibility within ten calendar days from the date the household's circumstances changed. [Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-803.6-5 MRP benefits. (a) An eligible household may receive one or more of the following MRP benefits:

- (1) Housing deposit, as incurred, to secure long-term housing for the household. The MRP housing deposit shall be the actual housing deposit amount up to the maximum amount of \$5,000.
- (2) Housing payments for no more than four months, to maintain the household's long-term housing. The MRP housing payments shall be the actual monthly cost up to the maximum amount of \$5,000 per month.
- (3) Short-term housing payments for no more than four months, to maintain the household's temporary housing arrangement. The MRP short-term housing payments shall be the actual cost each month up to the maximum amount of \$18,000 each month.
- (4) Automobile downpayment, as incurred, to secure a reliable automobile for the household. The MRP automobile downpayment

- amount shall be the actual downpayment up to the maximum amount of \$6,000.
- (5) Automobile payments for no more than four months, to maintain the household's mode of transportation. The MRP automobile payments shall be the actual monthly cost up to the maximum amount of \$1,000 per month.
 - (6) One-time utility deposit, as incurred, to connect a household's electricity, gas, and water source. The MRP utility deposit may be applied to one or more utility source. The total MRP utility deposit amount shall be the actual utility deposit expense up to \$2,000.
 - (7) Utility payments for no more than four months, to maintain the household's utility sources. The MRP utility payments may be applied to one or more utility sources. The total MRP utility payment amount shall be the combined monthly cost for all utility sources up to the maximum amount of \$1,000 each month.
 - (8) One-time purchase of a refrigerator unit for the household, as incurred. The MRP payment for a refrigerator shall be the actual cost up to \$1,000.
 - (9) One-time purchase of a range unit for the household, as incurred. The MRP payment for a range shall be the actual cost up to \$1,000.
 - (10) One-time purchase of a washing machine unit, dryer unit, or both, for the household, as incurred. The MRP payment for a washer, dryer unit, or both shall be the actual cost up to \$1,000, or up to \$1,750 for both washer and dryer units.
 - (11) One-time purchase of a microwave or toaster oven, or both, for the household, as incurred. The MRP payment for a microwave or toaster oven, or both, shall be the actual cost up to \$200.

(12) Clothing allowance for each eligible household member. The MRP clothing allowance shall not exceed \$400 for each dependent child, and \$550 for each adult in the household. Each household member must meet all eligibility requirements in section 17-803.6-3 to receive the MRP clothing allowance.

(13) School supply allowance of \$350 for each school-aged dependent child. Each dependent child must meet all eligibility requirements in section 17-803.6-3 to receive the MRP school supply allowance.

(b) Each MRP benefit listed in subsection (a), paragraphs (1) through (11), shall be limited to once in the lifetime of the household.

(c) The MRP benefit amounts listed in subsection (a), paragraphs (1) to (7), that are shared with excluded individuals, shall be prorated and calculated as follows:

- (1) The total monthly amount of the housing, automobile, or utility expense shall be divided by the sum of the household members and excluded individuals; then
- (2) The amount resulting from paragraph (1) shall be multiplied by the number of members in the household that are listed on the application.

(d) Each MRP benefit listed in subsection (a), paragraphs (8) through (11), shall be granted to one eligible household if there are multiple households occupying the same housing unit.

(e) Each MRP benefit listed in subsection (a), paragraph (12), shall be limited to once in the lifetime of each adult household member.

(f) Each MRP benefit listed in subsection (a), paragraphs (12) and (13), shall be limited to once every twelve consecutive calendar months for each dependent child in the household. The twelve-month period shall begin from the month the dependent child

received the last payment listed in subsection (a), paragraph (12) or (13).

(g) A household determined eligible shall have a signed rental or lease contract, bill of sale or other formal and binding agreement, provided that any specified costs shall not include maintenance, repairs, remodeling, insurance, property tax fees, or other costs not related to immediate housing needs or the automobile purchase, to receive any MRP benefits listed in subsection (a), paragraphs (1) through (11).

(h) The household shall have accounts with the utility companies to qualify for each MRP benefit listed in subsection (a), paragraphs (6) and (7).

(i) For subsection (a), paragraph (12), a pregnant woman without a dependent child, who is in the third trimester of pregnancy, and the unborn child together shall be considered as one person for the purpose of the MRP benefit, and the MRP benefit shall not exceed \$800.

(j) The MRP benefits listed in subsection (a), paragraphs (4) and (5), may be combined and issued as a one-time payment for the outright purchase of an automobile, as incurred. The MRP benefit shall be the actual automobile bill of sale amount up to the maximum amount of \$10,000.

(k) MRP benefits may be paid to the household or directly to a vendor or a payee other than the household at the discretion of the department or the department's designee. [Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-803.6-6 Disposition of application. (a)

The date of eligibility for MRP benefits shall be the later of the following:

- (1) The date of application, provided that the eligibility requirements of sections 17-803.6-4, 17-803.6-5, and 17-803.6-6 are met from the date of application; or

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- (2) The date the MRP benefits are requested to begin and shall be within sixty days after the eligibility conditions of sections 17-803.6-4, 17-803.6-5, and 17-803.6-6 are met.
- (b) The MRP benefit amount allowable under section 17-803.6-5 may be reduced as follows:
 - (1) Any reduced adjustments by the department or department's designee to disallow requested MRP benefits for any dependent child or adult household member who does not meet the requirements or already received MRP payments under this chapter as provided in section 17-803.6-4(d) or under preceding chapters;
 - (2) Any reduced adjustments by the department to disallow requested MRP benefits that are duplicative of benefits the household will receive or already received as specified under sections 17-803.6-3(b) or 17-803.6-5(b) or (c) or under preceding chapters; or
 - (3) Any reduced adjustments by the department when the household does not provide the requested verification to support the MRP benefit type requested.
- (c) If eligible under this chapter, the department shall issue the MRP benefits that the household is determined eligible to receive, pursuant to section 17-803.6-6(d), within thirty calendar days from the date the eligibility determination is made.
- (d) The department shall provide a written notice to the applicant of the disposition of the application for MRP benefits and any MRP benefit calculations. The notice shall contain:
 - (1) A statement of the action taken;
 - (2) The reasons for the action;
 - (3) The specific rules supporting the action;
 - (4) The MRP benefit amounts approved, if any, and for which benefit months;

- (5) The right to request a departmental review pursuant to section 17-803.6-8, if applicable; and
- (6) The rights and responsibilities of the household if eligible for the MRP benefits. [Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-803.6-7 Application determination dispute.

(a) If an applicant disputes a determination of ineligibility or an MRP benefit amount, the applicant may submit a request for departmental review.

(b) A request for departmental review shall be submitted in writing to the department no later than thirty calendar days from the date of the eligibility determination notice.

(c) A request for departmental review shall include an explanation of why the applicant disagrees with the eligibility determination or MRP benefit amount and shall include all arguments and evidence the applicant deems relevant to support the disputed determination or benefit amount.

(d) Untimely requests for departmental review may not be granted except upon the showing of good cause that is accepted by the department. Good cause means the applicant provides evidence of circumstances that are out of the applicant's control including but not limited to household member illness or death, or a major event causing a disruption of the household's circumstance. [Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-803.6-8 Review process and decision. (a)

The department shall acknowledge the applicant's request for a departmental review, in writing, no

later than seven business days from the date it is received by the department.

(b) The departmental review shall be conducted by the department at a time and in a manner determined by the department, at the department's discretion, and may be conducted in-person, through telephone conference, by video conferencing, in writing, or by a combination of these methods.

(c) In addition to the arguments and evidence provided by the applicant in the request for departmental review, the department may request additional information from the applicant that the department deems relevant to its review.

(d) The department shall render its decision of its review in writing within thirty calendar days from the written acknowledgement in subsection (a). The written notice shall include a short statement of the reason for the decision.

(e) If the departmental review upholds the determination of ineligibility or MRP benefit amount, an applicant may file a written request for an administrative appeal, in accordance with the provisions set forth in chapter 17-602.1, when the applicant disagrees with the department's upholding the denial of the application or determined MRP benefit amount.

(f) Notwithstanding chapter 17-602.1, the written request for an administrative appeal must be received by the department within ten calendar days from the date of the written notice of the completion of the department's review in subsection (d). [Eff

DEC 5 2025] Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, 91-14, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

§17-803.6-9 Overpayment and fraud. (a) An overpayment shall be created when:

- (1) The applicant fails to meet the eligibility requirements or provide information that results in an overpayment;
- (2) There is an error in determining the household's eligibility for MRP benefits that results in an overpayment; or
- (3) There is an error in calculating an MRP benefit amount, and the difference between the amount paid to the household and the amount the household is eligible to receive exceeds \$100.

(b) A household subject to recovery of an overpayment shall be provided adequate notice by the department or department's designee including:

- (1) The reasons, dates, and the amount of the alleged overpayment; and
- (2) The proposed method by which the overpayment shall be recovered.

(c) The household shall repay the department in the form of a cashier's check or money order, payable to the director of finance, State of Hawaii.

(d) Repayment must be made in full or upon signing of a repayment agreement with no less than ten percent of the total overpayment amount paid monthly until the entire overpayment amount is recovered.

(e) If the household for whom a collection has been initiated fails to make a payment for any month in the calendar tax year, the department may refer debts exceeding twenty-five dollars to the comptroller of the State for tax setoff as specified in chapter 17-606, or any other appropriate action as authorized by law.

(f) Fraud, as defined in section 17-803.6-2, committed by the applicant or household shall be punishable under applicable state and federal laws. [Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

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§17-803.6-10 Termination, denial, or reduction for insufficient funds. (a) The department may refuse to take new applications, deny benefits, reduce benefit amounts, or terminate benefits described in this chapter, in whole or in part, when there are insufficient funds to pay for MRP benefits.

(b) When allocated funds for the MRP benefits have or soon will be exhausted, the department may issue notices to applicants of actions being taken by the department to administer the MRP benefits program.

(c) A decision under this section shall be final and conclusive and is not subject to review under section 17-803.6-8. [Eff DEC 5 2025] (Auth: HRS §§91-3, 91-4, and 346-14; 42 U.S.C. §§601, et seq.) (Imp: HRS §346-14; 45 C.F.R. §260.31)

State of Hawaii
Department of Human Services
Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division

MAUI RELIEF PROGRAM FOR WILDFIRE DISASTER SURVIVORS -
INCOME LIMITS FOR ELIGIBILITY

350% OF THE 2023 HAWAII FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

FAMILY SIZE	PER YEAR	MONTHLY
1	\$58,695	\$4,891
2	\$79,380	\$6,615
3	\$100,065	\$8,339
4	\$120,750	\$10,063
5	\$141,435	\$11,786
6	\$162,120	\$13,510
7	\$182,805	\$15,234
8	\$203,490	\$16,958
9	\$224,175	\$18,681
10	\$244,860	\$20,405
11	\$265,545	\$22,129
12	\$286,230	\$23,853
13	\$306,915	\$25,576
14	\$327,600	\$27,300
For each additional family member	\$20,685	\$1,724