



## Hawai'i Restaurant Card Program Overview

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The Hawai'i Restaurant Card Program (Program) is a \$75 million economic stimulus initiative made possible by funding from the Federal CARES Act is being administered by the State of Hawai'i's Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) as part of its Economic Relief Program.

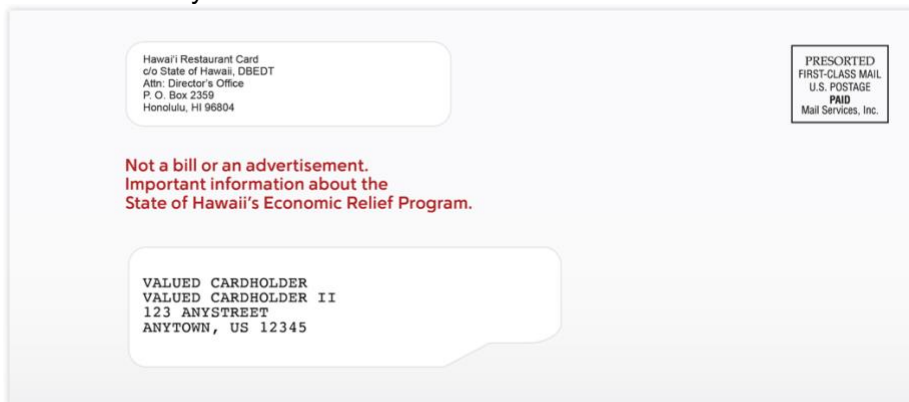
### **PROGRAM MESSAGING**

#### ***The Importance***

- The primary objective of this economic stimulus program is to drive business to the struggling restaurant industry, which in turn will stimulate economic activity for the State's entire food supply chain, including local farmers, fishermen, ranchers, producers and distributors.
- Restaurants are on life support. Two critical components in accomplishing the objectives of the Program are (1) to ensure funds are deployed with a sense of urgency and in a timely manner, and (2) to ensure that funds are spent within the restaurant industry and not diverted or used for other purposes, which will dilute the economic relief intended to benefit one of the industries hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It's no secret that many individual residents and families across Hawai'i are still facing unemployment due the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In order to expeditiously galvanize a large number of residents statewide to frequent local restaurants and eateries, while meeting CARES Act funding requirements, individuals who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic were selected to receive a Card. Thus empowering and enabling our unemployed to help Hawai'i's small businesses survive. It's a win-win for everyone.
- The Hawai'i Restaurant Card Program will run from October 16 through December 15, 2020, injecting, on average, over \$1.2 million into the local economy each day over a sixty-day period.
- The Program also presents an opportunity to get some of Hawai'i's unemployed residents back to work.
- For more information, visit [HawaiiRestaurantCard.com](https://HawaiiRestaurantCard.com).

## How the Program Works

- Approximately 150,000 prepaid debit cards, which can only be used at eating establishments and restaurants throughout Hawai'i, will be deployed statewide beginning October 16, 2020.
- Funds loaded on the Hawai'i Restaurant Card will only be available until 11:59 p.m. December 15, 2020, to spend at island restaurants, eateries, bakeries and food caterers. Any funds remaining on the Card as of December 16, 2020, will be returned to the State of Hawai'i.
- This economic stimulus program provides a much-needed economic boost to local restaurants and eateries and the entire food supply chain, while providing individuals who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, with another source of financial support during our current challenging times.
- The Hawai'i Restaurant Card program is simple and easy to use.
- Residents who filed an initial claim for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits beginning March 1, 2020 (and/or thereafter), certified that their job loss was due to the pandemic, and received UI benefits during the month of September 2020, will automatically receive a Hawai'i Restaurant Card by U.S. Postal Service mail between October 16 and 23, 2020. There is no need to sign-up for the Card.
- It will arrive in an envelope that looks like the one shown below. The envelope will be labeled as such: Hawai'i Restaurant Card, c/o State of Hawai'i, DBEDT, Attn: Director's Office and return address of P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawai'i, 96804. Please don't throw this away.



- The Card itself will look like this:



- For security purposes, the Card will need to be activated just like a credit or debit card. Recipients can activate the Card by calling a number, as noted on the Card.

- Once the Card is activated, eligible UI claimants will have access to \$500 in funds to use at all restaurants statewide that accept Debit Mastercard®. Funds on the Card will be available through December 15, 2020.
- The Hawai'i Restaurant Card will not cover the following:
  - Purchases at grocery or convenience stores, even if those establishments offer grab-and-go options.
  - Alcohol cannot be purchased using the Hawai'i Restaurant Card. Purchases of wine, beer and spirits ordered with a meal, must be provided to customers on a separate check to pay for with their own funds.
- The Card is for use statewide exclusively at restaurants, eateries and bakeries for both dine-in and take-out services. In addition, UI claimants with a Hawai'i Restaurant Card may utilize the Card funds for food catering.
- With the support of the Hawai'i Restaurant Association, Chamber of Commerce Hawaii (The Chamber), and the Hawai'i Agricultural Foundation, the local restaurant industry is excited and ready to serve. Many establishments have already started putting together special promotions that add extra value to Card recipient purchases at their establishments.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

- Hawai'i residents who filed an initial claim for UI benefits beginning March 1, 2020 (and/or thereafter), certified that their job loss was due to the pandemic, and received UI benefits during the month of September 2020 will automatically receive the Hawai'i Restaurant Card beginning October 16, 2020.
  - Each recipient must use the funds available on their Hawai'i Restaurant Card by 11:59 p.m. December 15, 2020.

The Hawai'i Restaurant Card is issued by MetaBank® N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to license by Mastercard International Incorporated.