

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services – Conrad 30 Waiver Program
Hawaii State Department of Health – Family Health Services Division
Office of Primary Care and Rural Health

Conrad 30 Waiver Program Overview:

The Conrad 30 Waiver Program is a federal program that waives physician J-1 and H-1B visa holders from certain requirements of their visas if they agree to practice in an underserved area for three years. Each state can grant up to thirty (30) waivers per federal fiscal year. **The Hawaii Conrad 30 Waiver Program accepts applications from physicians from all areas of practice with the goal to improve access to health care in underserved areas of Hawaii.**

Hawaii Conrad 30 FLEX Waiver Program:

Of the 30 waivers available to the state of Hawaii each year, up to 10 FLEX waivers may be granted to physicians that practice a needed medical specialty in a non-health professional shortage area, but who serve patients from a designated underserved area. Regular waivers take priority over flex waivers when considering the distribution of waivers, and this can result in there being fewer than 10 FLEX waivers to distribute in a given year.

Conrad 30 Waiver Program Applications:

Please review the requirements carefully as the application process differs between Regular waivers and FLEX waivers. Waiver applications are accepted by the Hawaii State Department of Health, Family Health Services Center, Office of Primary Care and Rural Health throughout the federal fiscal year: October 1 – September 30. **Email Regular & FLEX Waiver applications to: doh.conrad30@doh.hawaii.gov**

- **Regular waiver** applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis for award based on the date a complete application was received.
- Complete **FLEX waiver** applications received October 1 through October 31 will be evaluated together, ranked, and up to ten awards will be made to the highest ranked applications no later than November 30.
- Complete **FLEX waiver** applications received October 31 will be evaluated and awarded on a first come, first served basis for no more than ten FLEX or 30 combined Regular and FLEX awards in total.

Regular Waiver Applications

Regular waivers are for those applicants requesting placement in an underserved area. The Hawaii State Department of Health uses the federal primary care health professional shortage area (HPSA), medically underserved area (MUA), and medically underserved population (MUP) designations in considering if an area is underserved. If the application is for a psychiatrist, the Hawaii State Department of Health will use the federal mental health HPSA designations for placement consideration. Shortage designations can be found at <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area>.

Applicants interested in a **Regular Waiver** are encouraged to work with an immigration attorney for help to establish a case number with the U.S. Department of State and obtain a data sheet. Also, a signed employment contract is required to be included with the application package, so applicants need to have a job offer before the immigration attorney sends the application to us.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services – Conrad 30 Waiver Program
Hawaii State Department of Health – Family Health Services Division
Office of Primary Care and Rural Health

FLEX Waiver Applications

1. The Hawaii FLEX Waiver application checklist can be found at <https://health.hawaii.gov/opcrh/home/conrad-30-j-1-visa-waiver/>
2. Only complete applications will be considered for award. DOH will inform applicants whether their application is complete. If an application for a FLEX Waiver is not complete by October 31, it will be rejected and can be resubmitted after October 31.
3. The application shall include the percent of a full time equivalent that the applicant will be providing healthcare services in each of the following locations:
 - A federal primary care health professional shortage area (HPSA);
 - A medically underserved area (MUA);
 - A medically underserved population (MUP); and/or
 - None of the above/non-designated area.
4. The application shall include a narrative describing in detail how the applicant will contribute to improving the healthcare for underserved individuals in Hawaii. Considerations to address in the narrative may include:
 - The population most likely to access and benefit from the applicant’s services.
 - The need for increasing access to the medical specialty for the population most likely to benefit from the applicant’s services.
 - Percent of underserved patients (Medicaid, Medicare, uninsured/self-pay, and patients residing in underserved areas) currently served by the applying facility overall and by the applicant’s specialty at applying facility specifically.
 - Description of the physician’s understanding of Hawaii populations and culture.
5. **Email complete application to:** doh.conrad30@doh.hawaii.gov
6. If more than ten complete FLEX Waiver applications from eligible applicants are received October 1 through October 31, the Department of Health will rank them based on the department’s assessment of the applicant’s overall benefit to the healthcare of underserved individuals in Hawaii, making awards to the ten applicants assessed to provide the most benefit.
7. Subject to the availability of awards, complete FLEX Waiver applications received after October 31 will be evaluated and awarded on a first come, first served basis for no more than ten FLEX or 30 combined Regular and FLEX awards in total.