



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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**HAWAII CONTINUES TO LEAD THE NATION WITH LOWEST
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR MONTH OF JUNE**

Hawaii's Unemployment Rate Drops 1.3 Percent from June of 2003 as
Hawaii's Unemployed Population Decreased by 29 Percent

HONOLULU - The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today the June statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.1 percent. June marks the second consecutive month that Hawaii has posted the lowest unemployment rate in the nation. In comparison, the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in June was unchanged over-the-month at 5.6 percent.

For the first six months of 2004, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate averaged 3.6 percent. One year ago, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 4.4 percent, while the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3 percent.

In June, there were 610,100 employed and 19,350 unemployed in the state, for a total labor force of 629,450. Since June 2003, the number of employed has grown by 20,300, or 3.4 percent, while the unemployed population has steadily declined by over one-quarter (7,900, or 29.0 percent).

In another measure of employment, total seasonally adjusted non-agricultural jobs decreased by 900, or 0.2 percent in June over May, to 576,300. Much of the job decline was due to reduced support positions at the Department of Education, accounting for the bulk of the drop of 1,100 jobs in government. The balance of the other seasonally adjusted industry series showed little change, as Leisure & Hospitality and Educational & Health Services added 200 and 100 jobs respectively, and Trade, Transportation, & Utilities dipped by 200 jobs. Over-the-year, the total seasonally adjusted non-agricultural job count expanded by 12,000, or 2.1 percent.

“A robust local economy has accounted for the sustained job growth that has added 12,000 new jobs since June of last year,” said Nelson B. Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. “This exciting job growth, led by the private sector and encouraged by the Lingle-Aiona Administration, has helped to dramatically reduce our unemployed population during the first nineteen months of this Administration.”

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