

individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>. Copies of available documents submitted to OMB may be obtained from Ms. Pollard.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice informs the public that HUD is seeking approval from OMB for the information collection described in Section A.

### A. Overview of Information Collection

*Title of Information Collection:* Single Family Mortgage Insurance on Hawaiian Home Lands.

*OMB Approval Number:* 2502–0358.

*Type of Request:* Extension.

*Form Number:* None.

*Description of the need for the information and proposed use:*

FHA insures mortgages on single-family dwellings under provisions of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709). The Housing and Urban Rural Recovery Act (HURRA), Public Law 98–181, amended the National Housing Act to add section 247 (12 U.S.C. 1715z–12) to permit FHA to insure mortgages for properties located on Hawaiian Home Lands.

Section 247 requires that the Department of Hawaiian Homelands (DHHL) of the State of Hawaii (a) be a co-mortgagor; (b) guarantees, or reimburses the Secretary for any mortgage insurance claim paid in connection with a property located on Hawaiian Home Lands; or (c) offers other security acceptable to the Secretary. There are no changes to the program for this submission. Under the State of Hawaii, the DHHL is responsible for management of Hawaiian Home Lands for the benefit of native Hawaiians. The DHHL determines that the mortgagor meets its eligibility requirement as a native Hawaiian.

*Respondents:* Business of other for-profit (FHA-approved lenders).

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 23.

*Estimated Number of Responses:* 233.

*Frequency of Response:* As needed.

*Average Hours per Response:* 0.583.

*Total Estimated Burdens:* \$2,682.75.

### B. Solicitation of Public Comment

This notice is soliciting comments from members of the public and affected parties concerning the collection of information described in Section A on the following:

(1) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the

proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(2) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed collection of information;

(3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(4) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond; including through the use of appropriate automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of responses.

HUD encourages interested parties to submit comment in response to these questions.

### C. Authority

Section 3507 of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. chapter 35.

**Jeffrey D. Little,**

*General Deputy Assistant Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 2024–17343 Filed 8–5–24; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 4210–67–P**

## DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

[Docket No. FR–6461–N–01]

### Waiver of Regulations Issued by HUD: Restatement of Policy

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

**ACTION:** Notice of statement of policy.

**SUMMARY:** This notice reiterates HUD's statement of policy concerning the procedures that govern the waiver of regulations and directives issued by HUD. This policy was first announced by notice published in 1991, following enactment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989. In 2001, HUD published a notice that clarified how these procedures are implemented during a period of Administration transition. In 2008, HUD published a notice consolidating and updating the 1991 and 2001 notices. This notice updates information to reflect current HUD operations and procedures.

**DATES:** Applicable date July 29, 2024.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Aaron Santa Anna, Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 10282, Washington, DC 20410, telephone number 202–708–1793 (this is not a toll-

free number). HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

### I. Background

Section 106 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (Pub. L. 101–235, approved December 15, 1989) added a new section 7(q) to the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act. (See 42 U.S.C. 3535(q).) This provision specifies that all waivers of HUD regulations:

- Must be in writing and indicate the grounds for granting the waiver;
- May be delegated by the Secretary only to an individual of Assistant Secretary or equivalent rank, who is authorized to issue the regulation to be waived; and
- Must provide notification to the public through a notice published at least quarterly in the **Federal Register**.

(See 42 U.S.C. 3535(q)(1) through (3).) Section 7(q) also provides that any waiver of a provision of a HUD handbook (which is included in HUD's definition of "directive") must be in writing, specify the grounds for the waiver, and be indexed and made available for public inspection for a period of 3 years. (See 42 U.S.C. 3535(q)(4).) Section 7(q) contains only procedural requirements with respect to waivers of regulations and handbooks. These include requirements governing the form and content of a waiver, who may grant the waiver, and public notification of the waiver. Section 7(q) made no change in the substantive grounds upon which, or the circumstances in which, HUD may grant a waiver.

**II. Statement of Policy on Waiver of Regulations and Directives**

This statement sets forth HUD's policy and procedures governing the waivers of HUD regulations and directives. These procedures are consistent with the requirements of section 7(q) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, as added by section 106 of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989 (42 U.S.C. 3535(q)). HUD's regulation at 24 CFR 5.110 also sets forth HUD's obligation to comply with the waiver requirements of 42 U.S.C. 3535(q). This policy was first announced by notice

published in 1991 (April 22, 1991, 56 FR 16337), following enactment of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Reform Act of 1989. In 2001 (March 8, 2001, 66 FR 13944), HUD published a notice that clarified how these procedures are implemented during a period of Administration transition. In 2008 (December 17, 2008, 73 FR 76674), HUD published a notice consolidating and updating the 1991 and 2001 notices. This notice updates information to reflect current HUD operations and procedures. These operations and procedures apply during periods of Administration transition and non-transition periods.

#### A. Definitions as Used in This Statement of Policy

*Assistant Secretary* means an Assistant Secretary of the Department under section 4(a) of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3533(a)), or an individual of equivalent rank (as such term is defined in this section).

*Department* or HUD means the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

*Deputy Secretary* means the Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

*HUD Act* means the Department of Housing and Urban Development Act (42 U.S.C. 3531 *et seq.*).

*Directive* means a handbook (including a change or supplement), notice, and any other issuance that HUD may classify as a directive.

*Individual of equivalent rank* means an individual with rank equivalent to an Assistant Secretary, such as the General Counsel, the Chief Financial Officer, the Inspector General, and the President of the Government National Mortgage Association, or the highest-ranking individual administering a HUD program office pursuant to the office's Order of Succession, written Delegation of Authority, or designation.

*Regulation* means:

- Any material contained in Title 24, Code of Federal Regulations;
- Any notice published in the **Federal Register** announcing the availability of funds (referred to as a notice of funding opportunity or NOFO), or the criteria to be used to select recipients of the funds, under any program administered by HUD; and
- Any other notice published in the **Federal Register** that establishes program requirements pursuant to a statute that authorizes HUD to administer the program by **Federal Register** publication, pending issuance of effective regulations amending Title 24, Code of Federal Regulations.

*Secretary* means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

#### B. Waiver of Regulations

##### 1. Actions Subject to Section 7(q).

Section 7(q) of the HUD Act only covers waivers of non-statutory regulatory requirements. Many HUD regulations reflect statutory requirements, and section 7(q) grants no authority to waive statutory requirements that may be codified in HUD regulations. Therefore, HUD officials must always exercise caution that a waiver of a HUD regulation is not a waiver of a statutory requirement.

Section 7(q), however, is not applicable to HUD regulations that contain, within the regulation, the authority to grant an exception to the overall requirement stated in the regulation under certain specified criteria. This type of regulation was established to provide "built-in" exceptions to the general regulatory requirement, thereby allowing the applicable HUD official to act on such exceptions under the exception criteria specified without undertaking the more formal regulatory waiver process. Examples of this type of regulation can be found in the following regulations:

##### a. 24 CFR 203.43(c)(2)

#### § 203.43 Eligibility of Miscellaneous Type Mortgages

\* \* \* \* \*

(c) The Commissioner may insure under this part, without regard to any limitation upon eligibility contained in the other provisions of this subpart, any mortgage given to refinance an existing mortgage insured under the National Housing Act. The refinancing mortgage must meet the following special requirements:

\* \* \* \* \*

(2) It must have a term which does not exceed the unexpired term of the existing mortgage, *except that in any case where the Commissioner determines that an extension of the term of the mortgage will inure to the benefit of the applicable insurance fund, taking into consideration the outstanding insurance liability under the existing insured mortgage*, the term may be extended to the lesser of (i) 30 years or (ii) the unexpired term of the existing mortgage, plus 12 years; (Emphasis added).

Section 203.43 specifies the conditions under which the Federal Housing Commissioner may grant an exception to the general condition that a refinanced mortgage must have a term that does not exceed the unexpired term of the existing mortgage.

##### b. 24 CFR 201.5

#### § 201.5 Waivers

##### Waiver of lender's noncompliance.

The Secretary may waive a lender's noncompliance with any provision of this part, subject to statutory limitations, when it is determined that enforcement of the regulations would impose an injustice upon a lender which has substantially complied with the regulations in good faith and refunded or credited any excess charge made, and when such waiver does not involve an increase in the Secretary's obligation beyond that which would have been involved if the lender was in full compliance with the regulations.

Section 201.5 provides a built-in waiver provision and specifies the basis upon which the waiver may be granted.

2. *Form and Content of Waivers.* Each waiver of a HUD regulation must be in writing and specify the grounds for granting the waiver.

3. *Who May Grant a Waiver?* The Secretary is the ultimate repository of the authority both to issue and to waive HUD regulations. The Deputy Secretary has been delegated concurrent authority with the Secretary to issue and waive HUD regulations. The Secretary and the Deputy Secretary may delegate each of these powers to HUD Assistant Secretaries or other individuals of equivalent rank, as defined in this notice, and as provided in this section. Typically, the authority to issue final regulations is delegated to an Assistant Secretary or an individual with equivalent rank.

The authority to waive a regulation may not be delegated below the Assistant Secretary or equivalent rank (as defined in Section A of this Notice). An individual formally authorized to act for the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, or an Assistant Secretary, or an individual of equivalent rank in that official's absence may exercise the waiver authority of that individual. Use of this power is limited to situations in which an official is designated as, and is performing the duties of, the absent official pursuant to a current, written designation or order of succession signed by the appropriate official and subject to the limitations of the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998 (5 U.S.C. 3345 *et seq.*), or the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 403(h)) as amended by the Securing Inspector General Independence Act of 2022 (Title LII, Subtitle A, of Pub. L. 117-263, § 5203). *Note:* Special issues are raised by the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4601 *et seq.*) ("URA"). The URA statute authorizes the Department of Transportation, as the lead agency, to

issue regulations. (See 42 U.S.C. 4633 and the implementing regulations at 49 CFR part 24.) Section 24.7 of the Department of Transportation regulations (49 CFR 24.7) authorizes HUD, as a federal funding agency to waive certain non-statutory requirements of 49 CFR part 24 subject to certain restrictions imposed by the lead agency. Under 49 CFR 24.7, HUD may waive any requirement in 49 CFR part 24 that is not required by law, if HUD determines that the waiver does not reduce any assistance or protection provided to an owner or displaced person under 49 CFR part 24. Any request for a waiver shall be justified on a case-by-case basis. Accordingly, the authority to issue URA regulations in 49 CFR part 24 and the authority to waive regulations in 49 CFR part 24 are in different agencies. HUD's position is that the authority to waive provisions of 49 CFR part 24 given to HUD in 49 CFR 24.7 is not subject to section 7(q) of the HUD Act because section 7(q) addresses only regulations that the Secretary has the authority to issue. HUD's authority to issue waiver of relocation regulations in title 24 of the Code of Federal Regulations that are not required under the URA statute remains subject to section 7(q).

4. *Legal Concurrence on Waivers.* A proposed waiver of a regulation subject to section 7(q) must be concurred on by the General Counsel (or the General Counsel's designee with responsibility for the legal area involving the waiver), if the waiver would:

- a. Be precedential in effect;
- b. Affect in any way the competitive "ground rules" under which assistance is distributed to recipients;
- c. Relate to litigation involving HUD or its programs; or
- d. Otherwise present novel decisions or circumstances.

A proposed waiver that does not meet any of these criteria may be granted without the concurrence of the Office of General Counsel.

5. *Concurrence on Waivers of Nondiscrimination Provisions.* Any proposed waiver of a regulation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, age, or familial status, or that sets forth related affirmative obligations subject to section 7(q), must be concurred on by the Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, or the Assistant Secretary's designee.

6. *Notification to the Public.*

a. *In General.* HUD will notify the public of all waivers of regulations subject to section 7(q) that are granted by HUD through notice published in the **Federal Register**.

b. *Timing of Notice.* Each notice will be published not less frequently than quarterly and will provide information on all waivers of regulations subject to section 7(q) since the end of the period covered by the last **Federal Register** notice containing all the waivers granted during the reporting period.

c. *Content of Notice.* The notice will contain the following information for each waiver:

- i. An identification of the project or activity that is the subject of the regulatory waiver;
- ii. A description of the nature of the requirement that has been waived and a specification of the provision involved, including the citation to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), if the provision is codified in the CFR;
- iii. The name and title of the official who granted the waiver;
- iv. A brief description of the grounds for granting the waiver; and
- v. A statement of how more information about the waiver, a copy of any request, and the approval of the waiver may be obtained.

d. *Public Inspection of Waivers.* A record of each waiver of a HUD regulation (including the information specified in Section B.6.c. of this notice) is maintained by the office of the HUD official who granted the waiver, and will be published in the **Federal Register** not less than quarterly as required by section 7(q)(3). Information about specific waivers granted should be directed to the office that granted the waiver. General information about the procedures for granting waivers of regulations may be obtained from the Regulations Division, Office of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, 451 7th Street SW, Room 10276, Washington, DC 20410, telephone number 202-708-2084 (this is not a toll-free number). HUD welcomes and is prepared to receive calls from individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals with speech or communication disabilities. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call, please visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>.

C. *Waiver of Directives*

1. *Form and Content of Waivers.* Each waiver of a provision in a HUD directive will be in writing and will specify the grounds for granting it.

2. *Who May Grant a Waiver?* The HUD officer who is authorized to issue a directive may also grant waivers of its provisions. This authority may be delegated to any officer or employee in the issuing official's organization, as

well as to any officer or employee in a HUD Field or Regional Office. Any such delegation must be in writing, although a published delegation of authority is not necessary to delegate the power to waive the provisions of directives.

3. *What May be Waived?* This notice applies only to a waiver that is intended to provide a benefit to, or to remove an obstacle to participation in a HUD program by specific individuals or entities outside the Department. Waivers of provisions governing internal HUD operations, and any action establishing guidance that applies to all individuals or entities that are in similar circumstances, are not subject to the waiver requirements of this notice. Issuance of a new directive is not a waiver for purposes of this notice.

HUD officials must be alert and cognizant that waiver of a directive provision that restates or summarizes a regulation may constitute a regulatory waiver. In determining whether a directive provision is to be treated as a regulatory waiver, HUD will consider whether the waiver of the directive would also require a regulatory waiver. If so, the waiver must meet the regulatory waiver requirements set forth in this notice.

All prohibitions against discrimination on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, handicap, age, or familial status, and all related affirmative obligations that are direct derivatives of regulations, are considered regulatory prohibitions.

4. *Public Inspection of Waivers.* A record of each waiver of a HUD directive (including the grounds for granting the waiver) will be made available to the public. For more information on where and how this information may be inspected, interested members of the public are to contact the HUD office that granted the waiver. The record of the waiver will be maintained in indexed form for not less than the 3-year period beginning on the date the waiver is granted.

III. *Findings and Certifications*

*Environmental Review.* This notice does not direct, provide for assistance or loan and mortgage insurance for, or otherwise govern or regulate, real property acquisition, disposition, leasing, rehabilitation, alteration, demolition, or new construction, or establish, revise, or provide for standards for construction or construction materials, manufactured housing, or occupancy. Accordingly, under 24 CFR 50.19(c)(1), this notice is categorically excluded from environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act of

1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321). It should be noted that the actual grant of a waiver pursuant to this notice may require environmental review. If this occurs, the environmental considerations will be assessed at that time and in that context.

Executive Order 13132, Federalism. Executive Order 13132 (entitled "Federalism") prohibits, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, an agency from promulgating a regulation that has federalism implications and either imposes substantial direct compliance costs on state and local governments and is not required by statute, or preempts state law, unless the relevant requirements of section 6 of the Executive Order are met. The statement of policy sets forth only the procedures for granting waivers of regulations and directives, and for notifying the public of the waiver. Accordingly, this statement of policy does not have federalism implications and does not impose substantial direct compliance costs on state and local governments or preempt state law within the meaning of the Executive Order.

Authority: Sections 7(d) and 7(q) of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development Act, 42 U.S.C. 3535(d) and 3535(q).

Damon Smith, General Counsel.

[FR Doc. 2024-17034 Filed 8-5-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-67-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS-R7-SM-2024-N024; FF07J00000-245-FXRS12610700000]

Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council Meetings for 2025

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior; Forest Service, Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of meetings.

SUMMARY: The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) announces the public meetings of the 10 Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (Councils) for the winter and fall cycles of 2025. The Councils each meet approximately twice a year to provide advice and recommendations to the Board about subsistence hunting and fishing issues on Federal public lands in Alaska.

DATES:

Winter 2025 Meetings: The Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils will meet between February 18, 2025, and April 2, 2025, as shown in table 1 in SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

Fall 2025 Meetings: The Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils will meet between September 16, 2025, and October 30, 2025, as shown in table 2 in SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.

Teleconferences will substitute for in-person meetings if public health or safety restrictions are in effect. For more information about accessing the meetings, including start times and whether meetings will be in person or via teleconference, visit https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions.

All meetings are open to the public. For more information, see FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.

ADDRESSES: Specific information about meeting locations and the final agendas can be found at https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Attention: Ameer Howard, Deputy Assistant Regional Director, Office of Subsistence Management; (907) 786-3888 (phone) or subsistence@fws.gov (email). For questions specific to National Forest System lands, contact Gregory Risdahl, Subsistence Program Leader, (907) 302-7354 (phone) or gregory.risdahl@usda.gov (email). Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make

international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

Reasonable Accommodations: The Board is committed to providing access to these meetings for all participants. Please make requests in advance for sign language interpreter services, assistive listening devices, language translation services, or other reasonable accommodations. We ask that you contact Katerina Wessels, (907) 786-3885 (phone), katerina\_wessels@fws.gov (email), at least 7 business days prior to the meeting to give the Department of the Interior sufficient time to process your request. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case-by-case basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Board announces the 2025 public meeting schedule for the 10 Councils, in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. ch. 10). Established in 1993, the Councils are statutory Federal advisory committees that provide a public forum for their regions and recommendations to the Board about subsistence hunting, trapping, and fishing issues on Federal public lands in Alaska, as authorized by section 805 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA; 16 U.S.C. 3111-3126).

The Councils are a crucial link between federally qualified subsistence users and the Board. The Board is a multi-agency body that includes representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and U.S. Forest Service, as well as a chair and two public members who are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior with the concurrence of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Each Council meets approximately two times per calendar year, once in the winter and once in the fall, to attend to business and develop proposals and recommendations to the Board.

Winter 2025 Meetings: The Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils will meet between February 18, 2025, and April 2, 2025, as shown in table 1.

TABLE 1—WINTER 2025 MEETINGS OF THE ALASKA SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS

Table with 3 columns: Regional advisory council, Dates, Location (if in person). Rows include Southeast Alaska—Region 1, Southcentral Alaska—Region 2, Kodiak/Aleutians—Region 3, Bristol Bay—Region 4, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta—Region 5, Western Interior—Region 6, Seward Peninsula—Region 7, Northwest Arctic—Region 8.