



***ALOHA, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!***

Following a month of alarming increases in COVID cases, we're back on lockdown till September 9. According to the Mayor and the Governor, the intent of this [Order](#) is to curb the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus and to protect our community's most vulnerable as well as our healthcare providers. I believe this lockdown could have been avoided if the Department of Health (DOH) had implemented their contact tracers' plan they assured us they were working on over the last 4 months.

Governor Ige and Mayor Caldwell also announced a number of other developments to address the pandemic and its economic impact, among them:

- The federal government will be providing 60,000 COVID tests during the next couple of weeks.
- After vetoing the \$100 plus up unemployment benefits, and no Congressional action on extending unemployment insurance relief, the Governor has finally applied for the \$300 weekly unemployment benefits provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Meanwhile, the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19, of which I am a member, has continued to meet to oversee the state government's responses to the crisis. Here's what we learned:

### **Department of Human Resources Development**

- We were troubled to hear from state workers that health and safety protocols are not applied consistently among state agencies. Many state offices are not social distancing and wearing masks.
- The Department has a telework program dating back to 2010 that is being used as a template. The program has guidelines for teleworking, but the department director said his agency is leaving implementation to each agency.
- All state employees are considered critical infrastructure workers and are not subject to the mayors' orders, only the governor's directives.
- The committee has requested that departments inform their employees of teleworking requirements and how they are implementing social distancing to keep their staff safe.

### **Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) and Department of Defense**

- We learned that Maj. Gen. Hara is back in charge as Incident Commander and that he and the National Guardsmen are helping DOH with investigations and contact tracing, formulating operational and organizational plans, and training requirements. They are also assisting hospitals in increasing capacity so intensive care and respirator capacity are available, as well as looking for alternate care facilities if hospitals reach capacity. They are available to help Public Safety with the prisons if needed.

### **Department of Health**

- The committee's visit to the DOH on August 7 exposed the truth, that we do not have enough contact tracers—as we suspected—despite what Health officials have said publicly, and that the ones we do have are overwhelmed by the increasing number of cases.
- We toured the Convention Center and met with Maj. Gen. Hara and Dr. Emily Roberson, head of the contact tracing program, to get a first-hand account of the state's new expanded office for contact tracing. At the insistence of the committee members, the Convention Center was set up to increase the state's ability to

contact trace every positive case discovered in the islands within 24 hours. We were happy to see how they were able to scale up this process in the last 2 weeks. Just think where we would have been had they exercised this urgency one to two months ago.



Kimberly Sparlin, the Governor's Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Policy, accompanied the committee during their site visit to the Convention Center.

The committee will continue to follow up with airports to ensure that we will be ready when the Governor opens Hawaii to interstate/international travelers, public schools, unemployment, law enforcement and public safety officials.

### **Women's Equality Day - August 26**

In other matters, this year marks the centennial of women's suffrage, which gave women the right to vote through the 19th Amendment to the Constitution.

I introduced a resolution this year, Senate Resolution 52, and the governor issued a proclamation calling for August 26 to be observed as "Women's Equality Day." The resolution cites and celebrates the many contributions women have made to the nation and Hawaii, particularly as decision-makers who influenced and shaped the Hawaiian Islands' growth from kingdom, to territory, to state.

You can read the full text of the resolution [here](#) as well as the [governor's proclamation](#).



Senator Kim is joined by colleagues Senators Kidani (left) and Moriwaki (right) to recognize and commemorate August 26 as Women's Equality Day in Hawaii.

Despite the new Order, my office continues to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, you can call my office at 587-7200 or email me at [senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Stay safe, connected and prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sen Kim".



## SURGE TESTING ON OAHU

**FREE COVID-19 TESTING**

The City and County of Honolulu is partnering with the Federal Government and State of Hawaii to test 60,000 people over the next two weeks.

**EVERYONE can get tested!**

**NO NEED:**

- Symptoms
- Doctor's note
- Health insurance

Just register ahead of time at [doineedacovid19test.com](https://www.doineedacovid19test.com)

Easy nasal swab, no poke da brain!

Goal: 60,000 tests

**Can we make it to 60,000 tests?**

Wednesday was the first day of “surge testing” on Oahu where federal, state and county partners hope to test 5,000 people each day over the next 14 days.

This testing is free of charge and pain free as U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams and Lt. Gov. Dr. Josh Green demonstrate in this video:

<https://vimeo.com/451663548>.

Upcoming testing dates and locations within or near our district include:

**Saturday, August 29: 10am - 2pm**

Kalakaua District Gym - WALK-IN ONLY  
720 McNeil St

**Monday, August 31: 9am - 2pm**

Kapiolani Park - WALK-IN ONLY  
3840 Pahi Ave

**Tuesday, September 1: 9am - 2pm**

**Thursday, September 3: 9am - 2pm**

H3 Tunnel - Testsuo Harano Tunnels  
Kaneohe

Remember, you must register prior to arriving at the testing site. You do not need a doctor's referral nor do you need to be a resident of the community where the testing site is located. Results are expected to be available 3-5 days following a test.

For a full list of testing dates and locations or to register for free, visit [www.doineedacovid19test.com](https://www.doineedacovid19test.com).

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## COVID-19 WEBINAR - SEPTEMBER 2



A webinar on COVID-19 will be held on Wednesday, September 2 from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. to talk about vaccine development, antibody testing, training contact tracers, and more. The webinar is sponsored by the Hawai'i Immunization Coalition, Hawai'i Pacific Health, and University of Hawaii (UH) at Mānoa Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology, and Pharmacology.

Participants including physicians, nurses, and social workers who attend the webinar can receive up to one professional development credit hour.

To register for the webinar, please visit: <https://forms.gle/fmvs6zGyQuKxbVLcA>.

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## HAWAII APPLIES FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BONUS PROGRAM

Gov. Ige and Department of Labor and Industrial Relation (DLIR) Acting Director Anne Eustaquio announced that Hawaii will apply to participate in a new unemployment insurance plus up program called the Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) Program. The program, under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), was created by the president via a [memorandum](#) earlier this month in response to the July expiration of the unemployment \$600 weekly benefit.



Upon approval, Hawaii will offer an additional unemployment compensation benefit of \$300 per week to eligible unemployment recipients. To qualify for this benefit, recipients must be eligible for at least \$100 in weekly benefit and must certify that they are unemployed or partially unemployed due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Payments would be retroactive to August 1, 2020.

Unlike the program that ended in July, LWA is a grant with a finite amount of funding, up to \$44 billion from the Department of Homeland Security's Disaster Relief Fund. The program will end once that money is spent. It is also only eligible for weeks of unemployment ending

no later than Dec. 6.

DLIR is preparing for applications in anticipation of the state's approval into the program. When FEMA exhausts its grant funding, it will no longer have the resources to provide LWA payments and the program will end. If the federal program does not exhaust the LWA grant funding, payments will end on Dec. 26, 2020.

Claimants who are unemployed or partially unemployed due to COVID-19 and are eligible to receive at least \$100 per week in unemployment benefits from one of the following programs will be eligible to receive \$300 a week in LWA funds from FEMA:

- Unemployment Insurance (UI)
- Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE)
- Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Servicemembers (UCX)
- Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- Extended Benefits (EB)
- Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA)

For more information on LWA and other unemployment benefit programs administered through DLIR, please see [Hawai'i News Now's interview with Acting Director Perreira-Eustaquio](#) from Tuesday, August 25.

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## NEW SITE TO OFFER RESOURCES TO THE COMMUNITY



On Wednesday, August 26, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) announced the establishment of a portal for businesses, organizations and residents to offer resources to the community to help Hawaii respond to the current or future needs of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The [Kokua Offers](#) portal replaces the Governor's CovidKokua@hawaii.gov email address previously utilized to solicit assistance, which allowed 473 companies, organizations and Hawaii resident to offer COVID-specific resources and ideas - some of which were adopted.

Additionally, HI-EMA has launched a website for independent medical and dental practices, small groups, small hospitals, small businesses, and non-profits to obtain free personal

protective equipment (PPE). There are 12 items available and there is a prioritization list of which organizations have access to which supplies and how many. While it takes 2-3 months to receive bulk orders, each organization will be sent supplies that are already on island while they wait for what they ordered.

For more information about this program, please visit: <https://hawaii-medical-alliance.myshopify.com/>.

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## HECO MORATORIUM ON DISCONNECTIONS EXTENDED TO DECEMBER 31



Hawaiian Electric has extended the moratorium on disconnections of electric utilities to December 31, 2020. The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) ordered that all regulated utilities extend their moratoriums, and reminded customers to pay “their bills to the extent possible during this time, noting that customers will still ultimately be responsible for paying Utility service billings accrued during this suspension.”

Hawaiian Electric encourages customers that need assistance and qualify to seek utility bill assistance from government and non-profit resources as needed to ensure their bill payments are manageable. Information about some of these programs and our payment arrangement options can be found in the news release, and more information is available on their website at: <https://www.hawaiianelectric.com/hawaiian-electrics-response-to-covid-19>.

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## SATELLITE CITY HALLS & DRIVER LICENSING CENTERS CLOSE TO IN-PERSON SERVICES

The city's Department of Customer Services will be suspending for two weeks all face-to-face visits to its offices on Oahu, beginning Thursday, Aug. 27.

The suspension includes in-person transactions at driver licensing centers and satellite city halls.



The temporary closure complies with Mayor Kirk Caldwell's emergency stay-at-home, work-at-home orders that will remain in effect through Wednesday, Sept. 9 to help curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Only appointments during the two-week closure period will be canceled. Efforts will be made to reschedule those affected as a priority. Appointments will be honored after the orders are lifted as scheduled.

Department staff will continue to process online and mail-in applications, payments as well as perform other administrative functions.

The city urges residents to take advantage of its online and off-site options for government services. A list of services can be viewed at [honolulu.gov/csd](https://honolulu.gov/csd).

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## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Is your 'ohana facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 impacts?

The City & County of Honolulu's Household Hardship Relief Program may be able to assist in directly paying expenses

#### Eligible Expenses may include:

- Childcare expenses to providers recognized by the Department of Human Services
- Rent or Mortgage
- Gas or electric utilities
- Emergency household expenses

#### Program Requirements:

- Economic hardship due to COVID-19 or related business closures
- O'ahu resident age 18 or older
- Meet asset and income limits at the time of the application

#### Household Income Limits:

- \$120,500 for a family of 4
- Visit [www.honolulu.gov/dcs](http://www.honolulu.gov/dcs) for limits for other household sizes



**Up to \$1,000  
Household expenses**



**Up to \$500  
Additional childcare**



### APPLY TODAY

through one of our non-profit partners

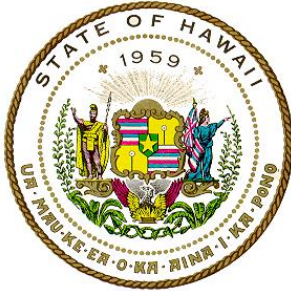
- Aloha United Way  
(2-1-1 or 808-275-2000)
- Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (808-596-8155)

**Questions? Contact our providers above or visit [www.honolulu.gov/dcs](http://www.honolulu.gov/dcs) or [www.oneoahu.org](http://www.oneoahu.org)**

The **Aloha United Way 2-1-1** is Hawaii's statewide COVID-19 resources hotline partnering with the Department of Health. Residents can call 2-1-1 or go to their resources website for a comprehensive list of COVID-19 resources, which include:

- Business Assistance Services for COVID-19
  - Child Care Expense Assistance for Health Care Occupations and COVID-19
  - County Government Information Services for COVID-19
  - Donor Services for COVID-19
  - Emergency Dental Care for COVID-19
  - Emergency Shelter for COVID-19
  - Food for COVID-19
  - Grocery Ordering/Delivery for COVID-19
  - Home Delivered Meals for COVID-19
  - Home Delivered Meals for Older Adults and COVID-19
  - Information Sources for COVID-19
  - Isolation/Quarantine Orders for COVID-19
  - Landlord/Tenant Assistance for COVID-19
  - Meals for COVID-19
  - Medical Information Services for COVID-19
  - Rent Payment Assistance for COVID-19
  - Rent Payment Assistance for Hawaiian Community and COVID-19
  - Rental Deposit Assistance for Hawaiian Community and COVID-19
  - Senior Ride Programs for COVID-19
  - State Government Information Services for COVID-19
  - Tourist Information for COVID-19
  - Undesignated Temporary Financial Assistance for COVID-19
  - Unemployment Insurance for COVID-19
  - Utility Service Payment Assistance for COVID-19
  - Volunteer Opportunities for COVID-19
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## STAY CONNECTED, STAY ENGAGED



My office continues to serve you. Feel free to email us at [senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov) or call (808) 587-7200.

[Senate Special Committee on COVID-19](#)

[House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness](#)

[Economic and Community Recovery](#)

For questions about exemptions, email [CovidExemption@hawaii.gov](mailto:CovidExemption@hawaii.gov)

To volunteer your time and resources to assist in the response effort, click [here](#)

