

# SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING  
DISTRICT 14

KAPALAMA • 'ALEWA • KALIHI VALLEY • FT. SHAFTER • RED HILL • MOANALUA GARDENS & VALLEY  
PORTIONS OF HALAWA & 'AIEA



## SENATE COVID COMMITTEE VISITS CONVENTION CENTER AND H3 TUNNEL TESTING SITE

On August 28, the Senate COVID committee 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.



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

On Sept. 1, the committee took a preliminary tour of the H3 tunnel, which will be a "surge testing" site on Thursday, Sept. 3 from 9am - 2pm.



*Above: Committee meets with Gov. Ige and state Dept. of Transportation deputy director Ed Sniffen.*

*Left: Senator Kim inside the H3 tunnel operations center.*



## STATE APPROVED FOR \$300 UI FEDERAL PLUS UP PROGRAM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the state's application to participate in the unemployment insurance plus up program called the Lost Wages Assistance Program (LWAP).



The program, under FEMA, was created by the president via a memorandum earlier this month in response to the July expiration of the unemployment \$600 weekly benefit.

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 benefits 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.

Additional information on the program and how to apply will be announced shortly.

## SURGE TESTING CONTINUES THIS WEEK

Last week 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 two weeks.

This testing is free of charge and pain free. However, 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.

Upcoming test dates and locations include:

**Wednesday, Sept. 2: 9am - 4pm**  
Aloha Stadium -- WALK UP ONLY  
95-500 Salt Lake Blvd.



HPD HQ -- WALK-IN ONLY  
801 South Beretania St.  
Lawn Area, 1st Floor

Kuhio Park Terrace Community Center - WALK-IN ONLY  
1485 Linapuni St., #103

**Thursday, Sept. 3: 9am - 2pm**  
H3 Tunnel - Testsuo Harano Tunnels  
Kaneohe

For a full list of testing dates and locations or to register for free, visit [www.dolneedacovid19test.com](http://www.dolneedacovid19test.com).

**Goal:**  
60,000 tests

## 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.

**Easy nasal swab, no poke da brain!**

**EVERYONE can get tested!**

**NO NEED:**

- Symptoms
- Doctor's note
- Health insurance

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

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

**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**



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>.

**AUGUST 26 PROCLAIMED  
“WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY” IN HAWAII**

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.



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.



**“STAY AT HOME, WORK FROM HOME” ORDER CONTINUES THROUGH SEPT. 9**

Oahu is nearly halfway through the two-week stay-at-home order that was implemented due to the recent surge in

COVID-19 cases. This order is similar to an earlier one issued by Gov. Ige in March, which allowed only essential services to remain open, encouraging telework and limiting restaurants to take-out only.

At a news conference, Honolulu Police Chief Susan Ballard informed the public to contact a newly established COVID-19 enforcement hotline at (808) 723-3900 or email [hpdccovidenforce@honolulu.gov](mailto:hpdccovidenforce@honolulu.gov) to report violators. “We’ve tried to warn people, educate people,” she said. “At this point, there are probably going to be very few warnings. It’s going to be either citations or arrests.”

For more details on the current orders, go to [www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov). For questions, call 768-CITY, email [covidresponse@honolulu.gov](mailto:covidresponse@honolulu.gov) or go to [oneoahu.org](http://oneoahu.org).

**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](http://honolulu.gov/csd).

**AVOID THE 3 Cs to prevent COVID-19 clusters**  
To prevent the occurrence of clusters, keep the 3 Cs from overlapping.



**1**  
CLOSED spaces with poor ventilation



**2**  
CROWDED places with many people nearby



**3**  
CLOSE-CONTACT settings such as close-range conversations

**CIP FUNDS RELEASED FOR MOANALUA MIDDLE SCHOOL**



**Project:** Parking Lot Improvements

**Description:** To finance design and construction to renovate the school parking lot

**Amount Released:** \$1,500,000



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