



ALOHA, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!

As we enter our fourth month of the pandemic, we are returning to some degree of normalcy. The governor has lifted restrictions on inter-island travel, most business operations, and other activities, although decisions await on the reopening of the visitor industry and the future of large gatherings.



The two-digit COVID-19 spikes last week – 15 on Friday and 17 on Saturday – and 27 new cases reported just today is a reminder that we must continue to do our part in social distancing, maintaining good hygiene, and wearing a face mask in public spaces.

With our economy dependent on the state being a safe public health destination, we must hold ourselves accountable and continue to follow all health guidelines.

Recognition must be given to the Attorney General and local law enforcement for their diligence in citing quarantine breakers and for working with the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 on finding lawful ways to keep our community safe from travelers potentially bringing the virus into our state. Our locals have also been instrumental at being the eyes for their communities and reporting violations to the police.

In the meantime, the Legislature will reconvene on June 22 for 14 days to conclude the interrupted 2020 session. Given the uncertainty over our economy and falling tax revenues, we don't expect to take up any major initiatives until our financial situation becomes clearer in the months ahead.



However, we will be taking up pending legislation and a number of budget matters, particularly in regards to the allocation of the \$637 million federal CARES Act monies that is currently parked in the state's rainy day fund. We have been waiting to get the Governor's budget plan for these funds since it is normal practice for the Legislature to work from a financial plan submitted by the Governor.



In some good news, Congress approved the Paycheck Protection Flexibility Act, which provides small businesses—the heart of our local economy—with more time and flexibility to use their Paycheck Protection Program loans. This should help them stay afloat during what will be a prolonged recovery.

The Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 has continued to meet.

- As of Thursday, June 18, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) has issued \$1,577,182,720 in benefits since March 1. Ninety percent (90%) of the valid unemployment insurance claims that have come in since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic have been processed and paid out by the DLIR. The Department shared that they have come across cases of individuals who are self-employed, independent contractors, or gig workers but have not been current in paying their general excise taxes and have attempted to file for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program.
- We looked at how other countries are exploring at opening via a “travel bubble” to allow a quarantine-free travel zone between countries (or states) that have contained the virus, e.g., the Balkan region (Estonia-Lithuania-Latvia), Germany-Austria, New Zealand and Australia.
- We heard from the Hawaii Executive Collaborative, a business group, in developing a [pilot Japan-Hawaii travel bubble](#) to allow quarantine-free travel between these two destinations.





- To help restart tourism, we discussed testing visitors days before their scheduled trip to Hawaii and/or testing at the airport upon arrival in order to lift the 14 day quarantine on mainland and international travelers.

Specifically, we looked at Alaska as a test model. Their new state policy allows passengers traveling to Alaska to forgo a 14-day quarantine if they test negative for COVID-19. One way to comply with the policy is to get a test at the airport upon landing and quarantine until a negative test result comes back. The other is to get tested within 72 hours of departure, and then present that negative test result upon arrival. We are hoping and working towards an August 1 date to have a hybrid test prior to arrival, but for those who choose not to get tested, the 14-day quarantine will be mandatory.

- We also looked at the possibility of testing everyone on arrival. However, the Department of Health (DOH) shared that testing of all incoming visitors may be problematic as our state may not have sufficient capacity to test at certain levels. The state's testing capacity is 3,000 per day. The DOH would need about 12,000 tests per day once visitors start arriving at its height. Although we don't expect arrivals to reach 30,000 arrivals per day as was typical pre-COVID. Nevertheless, priority must and will be given to testing our residents with positive cases.
- We met with the visitor industry on protocols for keeping workers safe and protected during their work shift.
- Public school officials confirmed that schools will reopen on August 4. The Department of Education will be finalizing its directives on July 2 and will be posted on their website.



Preliminary guidelines for school reopening from the Health Department call for screening students and staff for overt signs of illness; seating students 3 feet apart in class or 6 feet if facing each other; enhanced hygiene; use of masks outside classrooms; and meals in classrooms or outside, among other measures.

- State and county elections officers gave us an update on the impact of the pandemic on this year's elections, including the number of voting stations, availability of drop boxes, and steps to ensure the health and safety of voters and election workers.



Which brings me to my last point: 2020 will be the first time in Hawaii's history that we have exclusively mail-in voting. That means:

- The Primary Election is on Saturday, August 8. You may register to vote until Thursday, July 9.
- Every registered voter will receive his or her ballot in the mail on or about July 21.
- You should have received a signature verification letter some time ago to ensure voting security. Return it promptly if you haven't already done so.
- Traditional election day polling places will *not* be open on election day.
- However, you may walk-in vote at two voter service centers on these dates:
 - **Honolulu Hale, 530 South King Street, from July 27 to August 8**
 - **Kapolei Hale, 1000 Uluohia Street, from July 27 to August 8**



- There will be 8 voting drop boxes located across the island to drop off your ballots with daily ballot pickups and will be available for use at least 18 days before the election. These boxes are supplemental to the USPS collection boxes.

- All signed and mailed ballots must be received on August 8, by 7:00 p.m. Ballots can be dropped off at any of the voting drop boxes or voter service centers and will be accepted up to election day by 7:00 p.m. If you decide to mail your ballot via the USPS, please give an ample amount of time to mail it prior to the August 8

deadline. Even if your ballot is postmarked August 8, it will not be accepted and counted.

For information on the elections and voter registration, visit elections.hawaii.gov.



As always, you can visit the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 webpage at capitol.hawaii.gov to view all things committee related, including detailed summary reports of each meeting. Additionally, the meetings are televised live on Olelo 49.

I will continue to keep you informed on developments at the Legislature in the weeks to come.

Stay safe, connected and prepared.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ama".

SBA PAYCHECK PROTECTION LOAN PROGRAM



On June 4, 2020, the Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act was signed into law, providing small businesses with more time and more flexibility to use their Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans.

The new law includes the following:

- Increases the amount that can be used on rent, utilities, and other overhead costs from 25 percent to 40 percent; and it lowers the amount that must be used on payroll costs from 75 percent to 60 percent;
- Extends the period of time that small businesses can use their loan from 8 weeks to 24 weeks and extends the entire program to December 31, 2020;
- Allows small businesses to receive loan forgiveness even if they had trouble rehiring employees or if they have not been able to return to a full operating status;
- Allows small businesses to repay any amount that is not forgiven over five years, instead of just two years; and
- Allows small businesses with PPP loans to defer their payroll taxes as provided in the CARES Act.

INTERISLAND TRAVEL & HEALTH FORMS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

With the reopening of interisland travel the Dept. of Health (DOH) is directing travelers to a new website, where you can download the mandatory interisland travel and health form. All of the details about new procedures related to interisland travel can be found at

<https://health.hawaii.gov/travel/>.

The screenshot shows the website for the State of Hawaii, Department of Health, Disease Outbreak Control Division - Travelers' Health. The page features a navigation menu with options like 'DOCD Home', 'Vaccines & Immunizations', 'Diseases', 'Prevention', 'Reporting an Illness', 'Resources', and 'COVID-19'. A prominent banner for 'State of Hawai'i Traveler Health Form' includes a 'Download Form' button and a link to 'Frequently Asked Questions about the Traveler Health Form'. On the right, a section titled 'COVID-19 PANDEMIC' lists 'Hawai'i's Travel Requirements' with checkboxes for actions to be taken 24 hours, 3 hours, and on the flight before boarding.

State of Hawaii, Department of Health
Disease Outbreak Control Division - Travelers' Health

DOCD Home Vaccines & Immunizations Diseases Prevention Reporting an Illness Resources COVID-19 DOH HOME

Issues & Advisories For Providers About Us Contact Us

State of Hawai'i Traveler Health Form
All interisland travelers must complete the mandatory Traveler Health Form prior to boarding. [LEARN MORE](#)

[Download Form](#) [Frequently Asked Questions about the Traveler Health Form](#)

COVID-19 PANDEMIC
Hawai'i's Travel Requirements

24 Hours before flight

- Check in with your Airline
- Fill out the Mandatory Traveler Health Form

3 Hours before flight

- Enter health screening checkpoint
- Complete TSA check

On your flight

- Follow guidance from your airline regarding physical distancing, mask wearing, and sanitation process

Deplaning

- Follow guidance from your airline regarding physical distancing and mask wearing

State officials are working toward an online form that will be linked to a QR code for expedited scanning and screening at the airport, but that option is not available yet.

Travelers are encouraged, very much like in the post-911 world, to get to the airport in plenty of time to clear health screenings, which includes submittal of the travel form and a thermal screen. Anyone who does not provide the form or has a temperature of greater than 100.4 degrees will not be allowed to fly. The health information is collected prior to TSA security screening.

MORE BUSINESSES & SERVICES REOPEN

The greenlight has been given to allow for the safe reopening of the following designated businesses and operations on June 19 with limitations as outlined in the Mayor's Restore Honolulu 3.0 Order:

- Fitness facilities
- Indoor attractions
- Education and care facilities
- Bars
- Outdoor organized team sports (two phases, phase 1 beginning June 19)



On May 29th, “personal service providers” and outdoor attractions were cleared to open, with modifications, and business/commercial businesses, including restaurants, indoor residential, non-commercial gatherings of 10 or less (regardless of household) were allowed on June 5.

CITY REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT



The City & County of Honolulu is offering a real property tax credit to property owners who meet certain eligibility requirements. Applicants who qualify are entitled to a tax credit equal to the amount of taxes owed for the current tax year that exceed 3% of the titleholders' combined gross income.

This tax credit will be applied to next year's taxes. Annual filing is required for this credit. The eligibility requirements are as follows:

- Homeowner must have a home exemption in effect at the time of application and for the subsequent tax year.
- Any of the titleholders do not own any other property anywhere.
- The combined income of all titleholders cannot exceed \$60,000.

Due to COVID-19, first time applicants can obtain the tax credit application by calling the Tax Credit Office at 768-3205 or by clicking [here](#). Anyone whom applied last year will automatically receive an application in the mail starting the week of June 14, 2020 through June 26, 2020.

The applications will be available at the Satellite City Halls when those locations are opened to the public.

The application deadline is September 30.

FREE SUMMER FUN PROGRAMS FOR DISTRICT 14



The Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will be offering Summer Fun this year at no charge to Oahu families. The modified program will be offered on weekdays, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. from Wednesday July, 1 through Tuesday, July 28 (excluding the holiday on Friday, July 3).

Children must be six years old before Aug. 1, 2020 and not older than thirteen years old by July 28, 2020 to qualify. The modified Summer Fun will still utilize Junior Leaders.

The Summer Fun Programs will occur at the following District 14 locations:

- Fern Community Park
- Kalihi Valley District Park
- Kamehameha Community Park
- Moanalua Community Park

Registration will be conducted primarily online and will begin on **Saturday, June 20 at 9am**. You will need to create an account and a profile ahead of registration by visiting <https://pros.hnl.info>. For those who do not have computer or internet access, call 768-9292 to help facilitate your registration into the program.

For more information, visit <http://www.honolulu.gov/parks/program/summer-fun-program.html>.

KALAKAUA OPEN STREET SUNDAYS



Every Sunday till July 5, Kalakaua Avenue will be closed to all vehicular traffic from 6 a.m. to noon between Seaside Ave. and Kapahulu Ave. for families, bicyclists, joggers, and walkers to enjoy.

SEN. KIM PARTICIPATES IN 2ND PROJECT HOPE



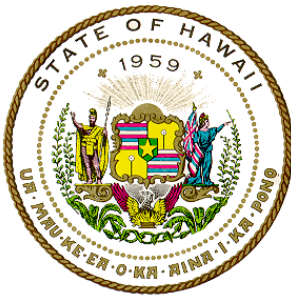
Senator Kim took part in Project HOPE, or Helping Our People Endure, a partnership between Farrington Complex Schools, Hawaii State AFL-CIO, businesses, restaurants, organizations, churches and various other entities to help support families in need during this time. The program provides 1,000 care packages consisting of nonperishable food, cleaning supplies, masks, toiletries, and other items. The event was held at Farrington High School, Senator Kim's former alma mater. The first Project HOPE occurred on May 2.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

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

STAY CONNECTED, STAY ENGAGED



My office continues to serve you. Feel free to email us at 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

To volunteer your time and resources to assist in the
response effort, email CovidKokua@hawaii.gov



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