



The Senate

**STATE CAPITOL**  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

September 11, 2020

Dr. Bruce Anderson, Director  
Department of Health  
1250 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Dr. Anderson:

RE: Proposed Inter-Island Pilot Program

In a letter dated September 8, 2020, the Governor indicated that he will be working on an inter-island pilot program, as requested by this Committee, to test the viability and scalability of the state's current efforts to enact a trans-pacific pre-test program. It is the belief of this Committee that some of the components of the trans-pacific program initially present to the public no longer align with current testing best practices, and that beyond those specifics, the logistical challenges of standing up such a plan should be tested at a smaller scale first. Instituting a pilot program such as the one proposed by this Committee would allow the state to better assess the effectiveness of the necessary procedures, while still minimizing the risk of large scale spread of the COVID-19 virus throughout the state.

In addition to what was proposed to Governor Ige, our Committee would like to pose the following questions to your department pertaining to the proposed pilot:

- Should a trans-pacific travel destination require a pre-test for residents to travel there, is a pre-test available for all Hawaii residents, including the neighbor islands?
- Last week, the CEO of Queens expressed that the prevailing opinion of clinicians on testing has changed and that now PCR testing of asymptomatic individuals is recommended in certain cases. Does the DOH concur, and does the DOH support pre-testing for local residents?
- What steps in the pre-test process, as presented in your June 18 briefing, need to be amended?
- What role, if any, should the Aloha Trace app play in these programs, and who within the department is currently managing implementation of the application?
- Are any additional steps necessary if the process were amended to begin with inter-island travel compared to trans-pacific travel? and
- Would the department be opposed to a pilot that includes counties where cases have not yet stabilized, or should the pilot be limited to counties where there is not a significant rise in cases?

State Senate, State Capitol  
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Dr. Anderson  
September 11, 2020  
Page 2

Finally, the Committee asks that your department initiate meetings with any additional departments impacted to discuss the necessary components of such a program as the Committee will seek to schedule a briefing with your department in the near future.

The Committee requests that you respond to the included questions by **4:00 p.m., Friday, September 18, 2020**. Please email your response to all Senate Special Committee COVID-19 members. Should you have any questions, please contact Ducan Osorio at 586-6800 or via email at [d.osorio@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:d.osorio@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Sincerely,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani  
Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
Senator Sharon Moriwaki  
Senator Kurt Fevella

Attachment(s):

2020-09-03 LETTER to Governor Ige (Proposed Pilot Program) revised;  
2020-09-10 RESPONSE from Governor Ige (Letter of September 3, 2020).

Cc: Senate President  
Department of Transportation – Airports Division  
Department of Health – Laboratories