



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 31, 2021

Dr. Libby Char, Director
Department of Health
1250 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI, 96813

Dear Dr. Char:

Some testing centers are reportedly receiving 40% positive results in vaccinated individuals who are spreading it to their household members. In addition, many parents are getting breakthrough infections from their children who are attending school in person.

The Senate's Special COVID Committee is requesting your assistance in providing the following information and/or comments:

- Can the DOH require all testing sites to put a sticker on a vile or test that indicates they're positive or not and add it to the daily reporting?
- Would providing this number daily give us a better indication of how much the disease is spreading, who is getting tested, and whether the majority of people testing are vaccinated? If not, are we getting a clear understanding of our positivity rate?
- Why is the State exhausting tests on re-testing positive individuals at Aloha Stadium when the FDA says it's not necessary to re-test a positive antigen result because it's highly accurate if it is positive?
- It is a high possibility that these tests are not highly accurate if it's negative. Why are we not using PCR tests during this unprecedented surge?
- Many people who are vaccinated will believe they have a cold or allergies and are continuing going to work and spreading the virus further unknowingly. What is the department's plan to provide more and clearer information about breakthrough cases and their symptoms so people can remain vigilant and understand that the Delta variant can infect you and make you ill?
- The CDC's website states it's up to state health authorities to require a pre- or post-test to all travelers. If we're following their guidance, why are we not imposing it when they are leaving it up to the state to decide?

We would appreciate a response by COB Tuesday, September 7, 2021. If you have any questions please contact Dane Wicker at 586-6639 or d.wicker@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Cc: Senate Special COVID Committee Members