



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 22, 2020

Mr. Scott Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Director Murakami:

Since the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent hold it has put on our state's economy, our Committee has monitored your Department's progress on the intake and processing of unemployment insurance claims. While this has been an evolving process, and still there is much that remains to be done, the state must now also look ahead to some of the next challenges related to the state's rising unemployment.

Getting unemployment claims into the system was just the first step. The state must now identify what challenges these same claimants will face in fulfilling the requirements of remaining on unemployment, until such time that they can secure adequate work. It has been reported to the Committee that claimants seeking to adhere to established requirements of submitting weekly & bi-weekly claims are now facing some of the same challenges they encountered in filing their initial application.

The Committee requests that you submit an outline of the requirements claimants must meet to remain on unemployment insurance, as well as specify whether each obligation rests at the state or federal level. Additionally, we request that you outline your plan to support and mitigate the challenges these claimants will face in meeting these requirements.

Our Committee is committed to supporting your department in meeting the needs of our citizens and requests this information as a means of providing you with the necessary resources to do so.

The Committee thanks you for your attention to this matter and request your response by **4:00 p.m., Friday, April 24.**

State Senate, State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Director Murakami

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Please email your response to all Senate Special Committee COVID-19 members. Should you have any questions, please contact Dane Wicker at 586-6639 or via email at d.wicker@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

Cc. Senate President
All Senators