



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 10, 2020

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor of Hawai'i
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Aloha Governor Ige:

I am writing to urgently suggest that you issue an additional emergency supplementary proclamation which gives Major General Hara the additional authority and direction to quarantine tourists and “intended residents” at designated secure facilities, or require them to be sent home in order to stop the importation and spread of additional COVID-19 cases into our state.

Several of my constituents have reached out to me and are disgusted that tourists are still allowed to visit Hawai'i. There is an increasing perception amongst our citizens that our guests are not being held accountable for their actions, and there has been zero enforcement of your self-quarantine mandate which took effect on March 26, 2020.

In the past eight days, 719 tourists and 376 “intended residents” have arrived at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport according to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority. This is one tourist and “intended resident” too many on O'ahu during a global pandemic, and places the citizens of our state at risk. Furthermore, I am concerned about who these “intended residents” are and where they are going within our neighborhoods. Where do they intend on residing?

I appreciate your cautious approach over the past few weeks to ensure that your emergency proclamations are legal and do not violate the constitutional rights of our citizens and guests. However, my constituents are demanding that more be done to control the importation of COVID-19 into our state by non-residents.

I am optimistic that the number of new cases will continue to fall which was apparent on Thursday with seven new cases. Our state government should do more to curtail the number of arrivals into our state so we can focus our medical resources and personnel on our residents, and continue to “flatten the curve.”

Thank you for your continued service on behalf of the people of Hawai'i. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 586-9460 or at repokimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

VAL OKIMOTO
Representative – District 36

VO:jks