

The Senate

STATE CAPITOL HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

March 18, 2020

Mr. Ford Fuchigami Acting Administrator Department of Transportation Airports Division 300 Rodgers Blvd. #6 Honolulu Hi, 96819

Dear Mr. Euchigami:

Thank you for meeting to discuss the plan to safeguard our communities and residences via airport screening, and for recognizing that given the dire state of current affairs we need to communicate, coordinate, and take decisive action to protect our families and communities.

We have a responsibility to provide our agencies, employees, and the public with clear direction and instructions on how we as a State will proceed in the containment of the current COVID-19 cases and prevent any community spread. We must move with great urgency and intention and provide a structured way forward for our citizens to safeguard themselves, our communities and our islands.

Our universities have adapted and adopted online classes. Schools, restaurants, bars, movies theaters, museums, parks, and more have closed. However, doing nothing at our borders undermines the pre-existing precautions in place.

I appreciate the rough plan you outlined in our meeting. Before you issue your concrete plan tomorrow, please remember that this state needs clear and decisive action. We cannot risk our health care system being overwhelmed by a sudden spike of cases.

Remember that you are not alone in this. We must take the steps necessary to protect our children, communities and families. The legislature stands ready to do what it must to address any challenges that arise.

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I understand that we would be the first State to implement such measure. But what other state has such a large influx of tourists? What other state is accessible only by air or sea? It is high time that Hawaii lead by example and establish practices that the rest of the nation can follow.

We look forward to your assistance and support on this crucial issue. Thank you for your attention and timely response.

Please be ready to present your formalized plan to the newly appointed COVID-19 Special Committee tomorrow at the capitol.

Mahalo,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Cc:

Senator Michelle N. Kidani Senator Donna Mercado Kim Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki Senator Kurt Fevella