



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 1, 2020

Honorable Governor David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Ige:

While healthcare experts differ on the efficiency of masks for asymptomatic persons, there is indication that masks, in addition to social distancing, has been a factor in reducing the spread of the COVID-19 virus in places such as Hong Kong, South Korea, and Singapore. Discussion on the topic can be found at: <https://youtu.be/gAk7aX5hksU>.

While the Committee acknowledges the challenges of maintaining the supply of personal protective equipment, like masks, the Committee urges you to enact a state-wide policy outlining guidelines around their use in public spaces. The Committee encourages a statewide policy coupled with the social distancing, hand washing, and wearing a mask when out in public be mandatory.

The Committee suggests that the policy include:

- A priority for healthcare workers, and public-facing workers like food and grocery store employees; and
- The use of substitutes i.e. scarves.

Additionally, the Committee requests plans include regular updates on the State's supply of PPEs and plans for maintaining their availability.

The committee requests your response by **4:00 p.m., Friday, April 3.**

Governor Ige
April 1, 2020
Page 2

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