



The Senate

STATECAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

September 4, 2020

The Honorable David Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
415 South Beretania St., 5th Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Ige:

RE: Oceanit Laboratories, Inc.

On September 2, 2020, the Special Committee on COVID-19 met with Oceanit Laboratories CEO Patrick Sullivan. Dr. Sullivan shared Oceanit's remarkable progress in developing and testing the ASSURE-19 test -- a rapid, affordable, and self-performed COVID-19 test that can be locally produced and distributed.

The discussion highlighted the evolving science on the most effective test approaches. Oceanit's researchers have produced the ASSURE-19 test kits using these best-practice methods, and are close to obtaining FDA approval. Oceanit is ready to produce 400,000 test kits for distribution in 90 days if funding in the amount of \$10 million were available for a development of a production site for the ASSURE-19 test kits.

The Committee believes that the amount requested would be a small investment for large benefits to the state: rapid covid testing and results that could enable safer and quicker reopening, establishment of a new local health industry, and creation of jobs. In short, the ASSURE-19 test could be a game-changer for Hawaii – not only in immediately identifying outbreaks and clusters allowing us to contain spread but in enabling rapid testing of travelers in lieu of quarantine which will enable us to reopen to transpacific travel.

The Committee believes partnering and supporting Oceanit will put Hawaii once again in the forefront of the national pandemic response. As importantly, Oceanit has separated itself from other options as it brings economic benefits to the state utilizing a home-grown science and technology company and establishing a clean manufacturing business here in the State of Hawaii that will build on our efforts to diversify our economy.

The Committee understands that CARES Act funding is available for testing as well as economic development and job development, and therefore requests your consideration of Oceanit's proposal. If funds can be made available, Dr. Sullivan indicated that the test kits would be available for distribution in

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90 days. As we face the challenge of reopening safely, the urgency of the request cannot be emphasized enough. We therefore request your response to Oceanit's proposal by **4:00 p.m. Thursday, September 10, 2020**. Please email your response to all Senate Special Committee COVID-19 members. Should you have any questions, please contact Duncan Osorio at 586-6800 or via email at d.osorio@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