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Proudly serving District 8 - Kahakuloa, Waihe'e, Waiehu, Puuohala, Wailuku, Waikapu, parts of Kahului

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM Representative Troy N. Hashimoto April 2020

Aloha!

It is amazing how life has changed in a matter of a few short weeks because of COVID-19. As a community, we continue to mitigate the health impacts of the virus and **that must be our focus**. I am confident that through hard work of our medical professionals and the community practicing social distancing, we will see our way through this health crisis in the near future.

At the State Capitol, to help minimize person to person contact, the legislative session was recessed indefinitely on March 16. Although we are not officially in session, our work continues and is being done remotely through video and phone discussions as the focus turns to navigating through our economic challenges.

I am keenly aware that our economy has come to a near standstill and many are facing reduced hours or unemployment. I am here to help and will continue to advocate for you during these uncertain times. This newsletter is dedicated to resources that are available to assist the community. As the weeks and months progress, I anticipate additional government assistance will be offered, so stay-tuned.

Please know that my office continues to be a resource to you during these challenging times. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out at (808) 586-9444 or by email at RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo,



Thank you to Chef Kyle Kawakami of Maui Fresh Sreatery for helping our community. He coordinated picking up food from the Fairmont Kea Lani before they closed, and recruited me and a few others to deliver the food to those in need. I was glad to help!

Latest information on COVID-19

As of April 1, please be aware that multiple proclamations from the State and Maui County are in place to protect individuals from the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person between people who are within about six feet of each other. Remember to practice social distancing and help to flatten the curve. For the most up to date information and daily updates go to: www.health.hawaii.gov/news/covid-19-updates/

✓ Mayor Michael Victorino has issued a stay at home and work from home order until at least April 30. If you are not considered an essential worker, please remember to only leave your house for essential activities.

Essential Activities include:

- ◆ Maintaining health and safety, like getting medicine or seeing a doctor.
- ◆ Getting food, pet food, and supplies necessary for staying at home.
- ◆ Doing solitary outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, or running.
- ◆ Performing work to operate an essential business or essential government function.
- ◆ Caring for a family member in another household.
- ◆ Caring for elderly, minors, dependents, person with disabilities, or other vulnerable persons.

COVID-19 INFO:

CALL 2-1-1
TEXT 877-275-6569
CHAT www.auw211.org
EMAIL info211@auw.org
Daily from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

health.hawaii.gov/covid19



For more information go to www.mauicounty.gov/2370/COVID-19-Coronavirus-Information

✓ At least until April 30, Governor David Ige ordered that all individuals, both residents and visitors, entering the State of Hawai'i **and traveling interisland** to self-quarantine for 14 days or for the duration of their stay, whichever is shorter. The mandate applies to all arrivals. Those who must travel interisland to perform an essential function, including those providing and seeking medical care, will have to fill out and sign an Interisland Declaration Form, wear appropriate protective gear – primarily masks, and follow all social distancing requirements.

✓ The State Department of Education (DOE) has announced school facilities will remain closed to students through at least April 30. Kahului Elementary is open to provide grab-and-go meals for students from 7:30–8 a.m. for breakfast and 11:30 a.m.– noon for lunch. The location provides breakfast and lunch free of charge to children 18 years or younger, regardless of eligibility for free or reduced price meals. For an update on meal locations and DOE closures, please go to www.hawaiipublicschools.org



Resources to help with COVID-19 impacts



This guide provides resources from the county, state and federal government available to those who have been affected by COVID-19. The U.S. Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which will provide at least \$4 billion in funding to Hawai'i. Extension of deadlines that may impact you at the state and county level have also been announced. Many resources exist to help the community, so please feel free to contact me if you need assistance with anything that may not be listed.

Unemployment benefits



- ✓ **Have you experienced a job loss or reduced hours?** File for an unemployment claim at <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/#/>
- ✓ The State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is working to ensure that this process goes smoothly for filers and has upgraded its system to keep up with the high volume of claims.
- ✓ **The Federal CARES Act has expanded the qualification for unemployment benefits**, including self-employed, part-time workers, workers with reduced hours, or those with limited work history. The act also increases the weekly benefit amount and increased the benefit length from 26 weeks to 39 weeks. The State has waived the one-week waiting period to receive benefits for individuals unemployed as a result of COVID-19.
- ✓ More information on unemployment eligibility claims is available at www.labor.hawaii.gov/ui/faq/. For assistance, contact the Maui Claims Office at (808) 984-8400 or Email: dlir.ui.maui@hawaii.gov

Federal stimulus: Direct payments for residents



- ✓ The federal CARES Act allows for one-time direct deposit payment to individuals to help them recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal government will send you a payment if (1) you meet the eligibility criteria; (2) you fall within the income cap.
 - ✓ If you filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019 or you receive Social Security benefits, you **do not need to apply for this benefit.** **Individuals will receive \$1,200 and joint filers receive \$2,400 plus \$500 per child under 17 years old.**
 - ✓ Benefits start to phase out for those with incomes exceeding \$150,000 for married couples, \$75,000 for singles, and \$112,500 for single parents.
 - ✓ If you did not provide information for a direct deposit through your tax returns, you will be mailed a rebate check to the address provided on your 2018 or 2019 return, whichever you filed most recently. Payments will be made as fast as possible but could still take a month or longer.
- ⇒ Information available at www.irs.gov/coronavirus

Housing support

Maui Economic Opportunity Phone: (808) 249-2990 or www.meoinc.org

- ✓ **Hawai'i Emergency Laulima Program:** *The County of Maui is establishing a program to assist residents who have been impacted due to job loss.* The program will provide financial assistance for food, medicine, rent, mortgage, utility payments, phone or internet service, car payments, or insurance. MEO will administer the program.
- ✓ **MEO Rental Assistance Program:** Assistance for individuals and families experiencing financial hardship because a decrease in income or inability to pay rent due to layoff or reduction in hours. Assistance is limited to no more than 6 months or 30 days after returning to work and/or hours being restored to pre-pandemic status.

Catholic Charities Maui Phone: (808) 873-4673

- ✓ Services include temporary financial assistance, including deposits, rent, and utilities. More information on services are available at www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/about-us/offices-facilities/maui-community-office/

Federal Homeowners Assistance



- ✓ Under the CARES Act, federally-backed mortgages, including those guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Housing and Urban Development: Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Program, Department of Veteran Affairs and Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac allow for:
 - ⇒ Mortgage loan payment forbearance for up to one year without fees, penalties, or additional interest by submitting a request to your mortgage holder. Foreclosure relief is also available for those who may be facing foreclosure or being forced to relocate. *The foreclosure eviction moratorium is in effect until May 17.*

Hawaiian Home Lands Loan Deferral

- ✓ Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) direct loans and loans assigned to DHHL are currently being deferred for a period of six months, effective with the April 2020 payment. For information about DHHL loan deferrals, please call (808) 620-9500 or <https://dhh.hawaii.gov/covid-19/>

Mortgage Loan Assistance

- ✓ Many of Hawai'i's bank are helping to provide relief through forbearance programs, extensions or deferments. Please contact your bank or lender for more information.



Resources to help with COVID-19 impacts

Business assistance



Small Business Administration

- ✓ The federal Small Business Administration (SBA) currently offers assistance through the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. The CARES Act has expanded the SBA's relief options for small business owners through a Debt Relief Program, Paycheck Protection Program, and Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program.

⇒ Additional information is available at: www.sba.gov or for assistance call the Maui office at (808) 875-5990.
Email: Library@hisbdc.org

Tax filing deadlines extended



- ✓ **Federal Income Tax** filing and payment deadline is now **July 15**. The extension applies to all individual returns, trusts, and corporations. Taxpayers **will not** have to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify. For more information, please go to www.irs.gov/coronavirus
- ✓ **State Income Tax** filing and payment deadline is now **July 20**. The extension applies to all individuals, trusts and estates, corporations, and other non-corporate tax filers including self employment tax. Taxpayers **will not** have to file any additional forms or call the Department of Tax to qualify. For more information, please go to www.tax.hawaii.gov/covid-19/

Fee waivers for payments to County of Maui

- ✓ Late fees will be waived for water and sewer bills until at least April 30.
- ✓ The County Departments of Finance and Water Supply will waive credit card fees and e-check fees for online payments related to Solid Waste, Water, and Real Property tax bills until June 30. For more information or further guidance, please go to www.mauicounty.gov.

Driver's Licenses, State IDs, Safety Checks and Vehicle Registration



Driver's Licenses and State IDs

- ✓ 90-day waiver on all expired driver's licenses and State identification cards if expiring between March 23 and May 15. Also applies to Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders.
- ✓ Extension of the Medical Examiner's Certificate (MEC) and hazardous materials endorsement expiration for motor carriers to May 15.
- ✓ In order to comply with COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, there is a suspension of in-person driver's license transactions and in-vehicle testing until further notice. For more information, please go to www.mauicounty.gov/1328/Motor-Vehicle-Licensing
- ✓ Airport TSA is accepting driver's licenses or State IDs that expired on or after March 1.
- ✓ The REAL ID deadline has been extended to Oct. 1, 2021, which issues a gold star on state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards as a minimum security standard, and prohibits federal agencies including TSA, from accepting licenses and identification cards that do not have the additional verification.

Safety Checks

- ✓ In order to comply with COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, all safety inspection stations are closed for vehicle safety inspections at this time and the annual safety check requirement is suspended until further notice. If your safety check is expired, it will remain valid through May 31. For more information, please go to www.hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/fuq/covid-19-safety-check-faqs/

Vehicle Registration

- ✓ In-person vehicle registrations is suspended until further notice, but may still be done online or by mail even though your safety check may have expired.
- ✓ Contact the Maui County Department of Motor Vehicles for further information at www.mauicounty.gov/1328/Motor-Vehicle-Licensing
Phone: (808) 270-7363 or Email: maui.dmv@mauicounty.gov

Resources from federal government

COVID-19 GUIDE

Information on how to access federal resources

- ✓ United States Senator Brian Schatz's office has prepared guidance on a variety of subjects included in the federal CARES Act, including direct payments to individuals, unemployment insurance, emergency paid leave, and information for small businesses. Each guide contains contact information for the agencies or organizations best suited to answer questions about the individual programs.
- ✓ To view Senator Schatz's Coronavirus resources, please go to www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus or call his Honolulu office at (808) 523-2061.





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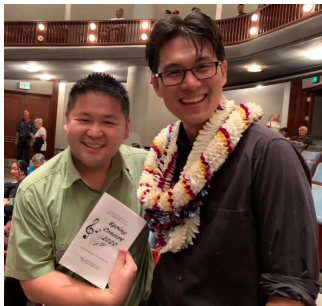
RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov

*If you would like to be added to our email list,
please email us, and we will gladly add you.*

 /rephashimoto
 @reptroyhashimoto

Spotlight on our community

Although these events happened a little over a month ago, it feels like a lot longer. With the help of everyone following social distancing, I know we will be able to return to normal everyday gatherings very soon.



Congratulations to Mr. David Kuraya (left) and the H.P. Baldwin High School Band on an amazing Spring Concert performance on March 10 at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center! The chorus, drum line, beginning band, concert band, and symphonic band all sounded amazing! This was also Mr. Kuraya's first spring concert after taking over the BHS Band program — looking forward to many more years of beautiful music!



*Congratulations to **Justin Yanagida** who celebrated the 4th anniversary of Yanagida Strength & Fitness in March! Justin's enthusiasm and his motto of "Fighting Sickness Through Fitness" keeps us all motivated to live a more positive and healthy lifestyle. It is always great to see young Maui entrepreneurs find success!*



*Had a great time serving as a judge for the Hawai'i State VEX Robotics Championships for middle schools! It was an intense competition, and the students worked hard. Congratulations to the Maui representatives from Kamehameha Schools Maui, Boys & Girls Club of Maui, and Maui Waena! Special thanks to all the coaches for their mentorship of our students and to **Chris Sugidono** who was my partner judge for the day!*