



NEWS AND UPDATES FROM Representative Troy N. Hashimoto

May 2020

Latest updates on COVID-19

STAY AT HOME EXTENDED

Governor David Ige **extended the stay at home and work from home order until at least May 31** but is working on a statewide reopening plan that will be based on facts, science, and guidance from healthcare advisors.

Key metrics under consideration include a decrease in cases, comprehensive testing and surveillance capacity, and a well-developed contact tracing system. As a state, a phased approach to reopening will be implemented and the intent is for measures to be relaxed before the end of May.

PHASED REOPENING

As of May 1, Mayor Michael Victorino began a phased reopening. **The first phase includes opening selected parks, beach parks, and golf courses.** The parks and beach parks selected were based on feedback from the community and will be open for EXERCISE ONLY. A few of the parks and beaches opened in our area include Keopuolani Regional Park, Waiehu Beach Park, and the Waiehu Golf Course. The reopening also includes guidelines for wearing masks in public and allows for vehicle safety checks to resume.

Effective May 7, Gov. Ige has allowed the **reopening of non-food agriculture operations, car washes, auto dealerships, pet grooming services, health care entities for elective surgeries and non-emergency services, nonprofit organizations, along with automobile and appliance repair shops.** The activities must follow social distancing, sanitation and safety guidelines. **Reopenings also vary by County.** More information will be announced as it is available. The latest information is at: www.mauicounty.gov - for statewide guidance, visit: governor.hawaii.gov - you may also subscribe to my periodic email updates.

EXTENSION OF IDs AND SAFETY CHECKS

The State Department of Transportation (HDOT) announced continuing waivers and extensions.

Driver's licenses, instruction permits, and State Identification cards that expire between March 15 and May 31, 2020, are granted a 90-day waiver starting on May 31. The extension provides the public time to obtain or renew credentials once face-to-face government services are reopened.

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders with a CDL that expired between March 16 through May 31, 2020, are allowed an extension of up to 90 days but the 90 days cannot extend past June 30, 2020. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has set June 30 as the last date that an extension may be granted.

Safety check certificates and stickers expiring on or before May 31 will remain valid until August 31. All other safety checks that expire in 2020 will be valid for an additional three months after the 2020 expiration date.

Motor Vehicle Registrations are still being conducted by each County. For more information, visit www.mauicounty.gov/1328/Motor-Vehicle-Licensing

For more information on IDs, CDLs or safety checks, go to
<https://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/faq/covid-19-safety-check-faqs/>

Aloha! As we enter the month of May, I know many are itching to get back to their normal lives. However, as our community reopens, we must stay vigilant and careful. The last thing we want is a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases and subsequent closures. **Please continue to wear your mask and practice social distancing.** I am confident we will get through this by working together.



The employees and patients of Maui Memorial Medical Center (MMMC) have been top of mind more than ever these past few weeks. After reading all of the news articles and witnessing uncertainty, I wanted to hear and see first-hand what was going on at MMMC. I participated in a tour of the emergency area outside of the hospital and a tele-town hall with employees. Although a comprehensive review is needed, my focus at the immediate time is ensuring that actions are corrected and the employees get what they need - from proper protective equipment to sufficient information flow - to deliver the best care for patients. We all must support the hard working front-line workers at Maui's only hospital. I encouraged employees to continue reaching out to me personally if they feel the need to share their experiences or have any further concerns.

Likewise, if you have any questions or concerns, please know that I am here to help and will continue to advocate for you during these challenging times. Please do not hesitate to reach out at (808) 586-9444 or by email at RepHashimoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Mahalo,

Unemployment insurance a top priority

The State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) is working to clear the back-log of unemployment insurance claims and is continually working to upgrade its system to help the process more claims. As of May 5, about 234,000 jobless claims statewide have been filed and a total of 88,818 claims have been successfully processed and paid with about 37,000 claims being denied.

In response to the high demand, two new call centers have been established at the Hawai'i State Convention Center and Hawai'i State Library, 76 DLIR employees have been transferred to the Unemployment Insurance Division, and 18 employees have been transferred to help with complicated claims processing. Over 100 legislative staffers have also been volunteering to process claims.

I understand the deep frustration experienced by the community. Processing the back-log is my top priority. You have my commitment that I will personally continue to pressure DLIR and the governor to move faster and allocate the needed resources to process all claims.

UNEMPLOYMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

File a claim and to check status of claim: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/> **Request a backdate:** dilir.ui.backdate@hawaii.gov
Password reset: (833) 901-2272 **Language assistance:** dilir.ui.languageaccess@hawaii.gov
UI phone appointments/inquiries: (833) 901-2275 **Disqualification inquiry:** dilir.ui.disqualified@hawaii.gov

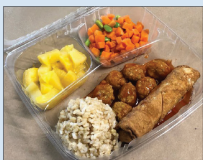
ASSISTANCE FOR SELF-EMPLOYED AND INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

Self-employed individuals and independent contractors may now apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) through a new system launched by the state. Up to \$600 per week is available through the federal CARES Act and is intended to help those typically not eligible for unemployment benefits. According to DLIR, as of April 27, pre-applications are being accepted. By May 15, additional features will be added to process applications, and additional information will be sent regarding the next steps.

If you applied through the regular unemployment system and were denied, please re-apply through the PUA system. To ensure that applications are processed in a timely manner, the information you submit, including income, will be validated against Hawai'i tax records. If the data does not match, it will delay processing of the application.

Apply online at: pua.hawaii.gov

Grab-and-go Student Meals



Breakfast service hours: 7:30–8 a.m.

For food safety, meals must be consumed by 10 a.m.

Lunch service hours: 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

For food safety, meals must be consumed by 2 p.m.

Mondays thru Fridays, excluding holidays.

The Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) continues to provide free grab-and-go meals for students. In Central Maui, **Iao Intermediate and Kahului School** are providing meals. The meals are offered free of charge to children 18 years or younger regardless of eligibility for free or reduced price meals. Parents or caregivers who pick up the meal must be accompanied by a child.

Hawai'i Keiki

★ HEALTHY AND READY TO LEARN ★

The HIDOE has announced the launch of **Hawai'i Keiki: Healthy and Ready to Learn Program (HK)**. This is a new service that delivers equitable access to health resources and care for HIDOE students. **HK will offer a no-cost health hotline and telehealth visits as an extension of services provided to students in the traditional school health room.**

The caller may receive basic health advice or information and, with parental consent, the student may be scheduled for a telehealth visit with an HK nurse practitioner. The health hotline can be reached at (844) 436-3888 (toll free) and is available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding holidays. For more information about the Hawai'i Keiki health hotline or telehealth services, please go to <https://bit.ly/HIDOEtelehealth>

Capital Improvement Project funds released

Governor David Ige announced the release of funding for the following projects appropriated by the Legislature in 2019.

Rehabilitation of old UHMC Dorms

\$5 million was released to rehabilitate the old University of Maui college dorms into a homeless housing and assistance center in coordination with the County of Maui.

Central Maui TOD Study

\$500,000 was released to fund a transit-oriented development corridor master plan by the County of Maui to connect Wailuku and Kahului along Kaahumanu Ave. The plan will identify



redevelopment opportunities, including transportation improvements, to capitalize on the potential for affordable housing, jobs, public services, and other amenities to create walkable communities.



Resources to help with COVID-19 impacts

► **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** The program provides food and nutritional support to qualifying low-income and needy households. For more information go to: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/1961-2/> or call the Maui office at (808) 984-8300.

► **Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF):** The program provides monthly cash benefits to families for food, clothing, shelter, and other essentials. For more information please go to: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/bessd/tanf/>

► **Med-Quest (MQD):** The program provides eligible low-income adults and children access to health and medical coverage through managed care plans. You may apply for Med-QUEST on-line at: mybenefits.hawaii.gov or call 1-877-628-5076.

► **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** Provides supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion, and health and social referrals. Call the Maui WIC Program at (808) 984-8225 or (808) 984-8226.

Alternative graduation ceremonies announced

As a result of COVID-19, both the Hawai'i State Department of Education (HIDOE) and University of Hawai'i system closed school campuses and made the decision to implement distance learning practices for the remainder of the school year. Traditional commencement ceremonies will also be replaced with alternative celebrations. The following have been announced:

- **H. P. Baldwin High School, May 21;** virtual commencement, drive-thru diploma pick-up; live-streamed.
- **Maui High School, May 17;** virtual commencement, drive-thru diploma pickup.
- **King Kekaulike High, May 20;** virtual commencement, drive-thru diploma pickup.
- **Lahainaluna High, May 24;** virtual commencement; lighting of the "L", 7:30 p.m.
- **University of Hawai'i Maui College, June 3;** virtual commencement, 5:30 p.m.
- **St. Anthony High School and Kamehameha Schools - Maui -** to be announced.



Spotlight on our graduates!

A note from Rep. Hashimoto:

I know this is not how our seniors expected to end their school year. Therefore, I wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate their resiliently in adapting to this new normal way of life. Many will have to change their future plans as the world recovers. Let's celebrate their many accomplishments and achievements as we wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors!

Lindsey Kimoto **H.P. Baldwin H.S.**

Life was busy for Lindsey Kimoto of Waikapu, filled with Student Government, Key Club, SCHWA, HOSA, National Honor Society, Maui Academy of Performing Arts, 4-H, and Kahului Union Church youth groups. All that stopped with COVID-19. "It was hard to adjust being at home for long periods of time, but I've been enjoying the time I get to spend with family. Definitely trying to stay optimistic about everything in this time of uncertainty," she said.



Kimoto has been coping with the lockdown by learning new skills, stating "I've been baking and cooking more and working with my family to find a good design to sew face masks. I've also been working on schoolwork virtually and taking dance classes through zoom meetings."

Although she is undecided on a college, she is planning on majoring in biology (health sciences) and possibly obtaining a minor in dance. Kimoto encourages everyone to keep a positive mindset during this time. "This pandemic will end and there will be a time when we can say that we made it through," she said.

Ethan James **Kamehameha Schools - Maui**

Ethan James of Waikapu Gardens understands that we are all suffering from COVID-19 one way or another, but "we need to use this as motivation to bounce back. We should all be full of ambitions and we should use this as our drive to make things better," he said.



This positive attitude will carry James far as he attends Columbia University in New York City where he looks to study business finance. As a Kamehameha Schools student, he was active in the National Honor Society, Letterman's Club, Volleyball, and Club Volleyball. With his free time, he has been working out nearly every day at home and doing school work. He also has been trying to cope by playing video games with friends and going spearfishing with his father.

Although he is sad about losing out on good memories of his senior year, he hopes that "we can all stay strong and be optimistic about our futures."

Jocelyn Labot Corpuz **St. Anthony H.S.**

Although adjusting to an online format of learning has been slow for Jocelyn Corpuz of St. Anthony High School, she is thankful to receive her education until the end of the school year. With her time, she has been reading more and studying for her Advanced Placement Tests which could earn



her college credits. At St. Anthony, she serves as her Class President and is a member of the L.I.F.E. Ministry Team, Marching and Jazz Band, and Science Olympiad. In the fall, she plans to attend Seattle University to major in nursing. Her hope is to become a registered nurse, possibly in pediatric or elderly care and also pursue a master's degree within the field.

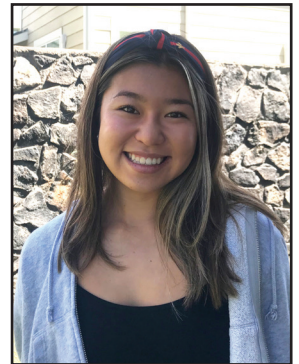
In response to having her senior year altered, Corpuz says, "it's a matter of saving lives. I understand that these precautions are vital for the control of the pandemic." Her advice is to "reach out to loved ones. I find that doing so is extremely comforting and empowering."

Kylie Ginoza **Maui H.S.**

Kylie Ginoza of Kehalani hopes to one day attend medical school to become a doctor. She has big plans for herself and has selected the University of Utah to attend in the fall where she plans to major in either biology or civil engineering.

A well rounded student, Ginoza is also a member of the Maui High School's National Honor Society, Pacific Asian Affairs Club, Key Club, Interact Club, Swimming, Diving, Soccer, Golf, and Cheerleading.

Like her peers, she now has a lot of free time on her hands, which she has been using to spend time with her family and also going to the beach to exercise. Although she is sad that her senior year was not as she had hoped, "I feel that everyone has been super supportive about the whole situation." Some parting advice is that she wants everyone to "spend time with your family and cherish the times that you spend together during the quarantine."






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If you would like to be added to my email list, please email me, and I will gladly add you.

 /rephashimoto

The more you know... Community Updates

Water shortage for Wailuku, Kahului, and Paia

The County of Maui Department of Water Supply declared a Stage 1 water shortage on April 27 for its domestic water system serving residents of Wailuku, Kahului, and Paia.

Due to a water pump failure in April, the department is requiring residents of Wailuku, Kahului, and Paia to cut back water usage by



Four Tips to Help Conserve Water Indoors

- Turn off faucet while brushing teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Fix leaks in faucets, showerheads and toilets.
- Only wash full loads.

at least 10 percent from May 3 until further notice.

“This recent failure reduced our water production by an additional 2 million gallons per day, which is

significant when combined with three other wells being out of service. With four pumps out of service, the department’s capacity to deliver water is down by as much as 6 million gallons per day,” Department of Water Supply Director Jeffrey Pearson said.

DPW is increasing production at other wells and at the Iao Water Treatment Plant to offset the loss of water from the four wells.

The Department is hoping to have two of the four wells back in service by the end of May.

Consumers with water problems may call the 24-hour service line at (808) 270-7633.

Maui Lani roundabout project

The County of Maui’s construction on the Maui Lani roundabout project began in April at the intersection of Maui Lani Parkway and Kamehameha Avenue in Kahului.

Goodfellow Brothers is the general contractor on the \$3.15 million Maui Lani roundabout project, which *is expected to take approximately eight months to complete.*

Work hours are from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for holidays. The project will be constructed in four phases.

The project’s first phase will include utility relocation and trenching work. All approaches will be restricted to one lane in each direction, and the intersection will continue to operate as a four-way stop.

The project’s scope includes removal of obstructions, performance of road pavement work, construction of curb ramps and sidewalks, adjustment of manholes, installation of irrigation and water valves, creation of a storm drain culvert, replacement of street signs and other improvements.

