



***ALOHA, FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!***

The Legislature reconvened on June 22 for a three-week session that concluded with our official adjournment on July 10.

It would be an understatement to say this was a tumultuous, chaotic period for the 2020 Legislature, and for Hawaii in general, as the pandemic created an unprecedented disruption in our lives and work—and will continue to do so for weeks to come.

Despite the interruptions to our calendar, the Legislature did succeed in not only vetting and confirming 322 gubernatorial nominations for various state departments and boards and commissions but also reviewing and approving legislation to help people weather this crisis.



To view a complete list of bills that passed the Legislature, click [here](#). These bills will now head to the governor where he may sign the bill into law or veto any bill but must notify the legislature at most 35 days of his intent to veto from the day the Legislature adjourned.

Meanwhile, the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19, of which I am a member, met this week to assess the Governor's plans to reopen tourism on September 1, review the current status of the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program, and evaluate the re-opening of public schools next month.

Our state epidemiologist reported that Hawaii is not ready to reopen our state to tourists as community spread of the coronavirus continues. We need our communities to be diligent if we are to reopen our state and minimize COVID cases from spiking when tourists do arrive.

So, in closing, we must continue to do our part in social distancing, maintaining good hygiene, and wearing a face mask in public spaces. With our economy dependent on the state being a safe public health destination, we must hold ourselves accountable and continue to follow all health guidelines.

Although the 2020 Legislative Session has adjourned, my office continues to remain open to serve you.

Stay safe, connected and prepared.



## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR \$600 PLUS-UP EXPIRES END OF THE MONTH



Through the Legislature's plan, the state will begin on Aug. 1 issuing \$100 plus-up payments per week in addition to unemployment insurance benefits. The benefits will replace a portion of the \$600 a week in federal plus-up payments for the unemployed that are set to expire July 31, unless the federal government extends the program.

About \$230 million of the Legislature's funds were set aside for the weekly benefit, which will continue flowing to unemployed residents until the end of the year.

## MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS EXTENDED THROUGH AUGUST; RENTAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The governor has extended a moratorium on evictions, which prevents tenants facing financial hardship from being evicted for failing to pay rent until the end of August. Despite the moratorium, tenants are being urged to communicate with their landlords if they can't pay rent because once the order is lifted all the back payments will be due. Residents who have concerns about evictions during this time can contact the Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection's Landlord Tenant line at 586-2634.



In addition, the Legislature has allocated a portion of the federal CARES Act funds for rent relief and housing assistance. Individuals can receive up to 50% of rent or up to \$500 per month (whichever is less). The program will run for 5 months from August till December. The program is being managed by the Hawaii Housing Finance Development Corporation in conjunction with certain local non-profit organizations. For more information, click [here](#).

## SEPT. 1 NEW DATE FOR TRANS-PACIFIC TRAVEL

Governor Ige outlined the reasons for delaying the date for trans-pacific travel from August 1 to September 1 based on the following:

- Record numbers of new cases in Hawaii
- Large, uncontrolled outbreaks in mainland states
- Supply chain for testing supplies interrupted because of outbreaks
- Anticipated uptick in cases when schools reopen



### Pre-Travel Testing Progress Update

Progress on the pre-travel testing program is being made and more details will be in place by Sept. 1. The outline of the program includes:

- Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) from a certified Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) lab
- Travelers exempt for mandatory 14-day quarantine if testing negative no more than 72 hours in advance of travel
- If results are not available by time of arrival, quarantine necessary until test results received
- All travelers of all ages subject to pre-test requirement
- Individuals responsible for testing costs

- No commercial testing provided at Hawaii airports

It's important to note that a negative test doesn't always mean you aren't infected. No test is 100 percent accurate. Some test results may incorrectly say that a person has a condition, but they don't. That's a false positive. So pre-testing is just one tool and not the answer to re-opening. The pre-test includes arrival temperature checks, completion of the State Travel and Health form, and secondary screening for those with symptoms or temperatures of 100.4 degrees or higher.

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO REOPEN AUGUST 4



### HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION **RETURN TO LEARN: SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN**

Hawaii's public schools will welcome back students Aug. 4 with new protocols and a mix of traditional in-school instruction and distance learning in a move to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The state Department of Education (DOE) unveiled a reopening plan that aims to keep the standard 180 days of instruction for the 2020-21 school year while upholding academic standards and maintaining healthy learning environments.

In consultation with the Department of Health, the DOE created base-line recommendations for schools that include:

- A distance of 6 feet between students and staff members should be maintained whenever possible
- Face coverings should be worn by employees, students and visitors, especially when physical distancing is difficult or impossible
- Meals will be consumed in classrooms or at designated outdoor locations or in cafeterias under distancing precautions
- Windows should be opened for more natural air circulation when possible.
- Employees, students and visitors should be screened for overt signs of illness
- Cleaning supplies, soap, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer will be made available to schools and offices
- Campuses, classrooms and offices will be cleaned and disinfected frequently, with high-touch surfaces cleaned and disinfected at least daily

- For on-campus learning, the same group of students should be kept with the same staff throughout the day — all day for younger students and as much as possible for older students

School leaders created elementary, middle/intermediate, and high school models for the reopening of the 2020-21 year. Models may vary due to number and size of school facilities; ability to accommodate enrollment numbers; and impact of instructional staff vacancies. To view a list of schools and their model, click [here](#).

## AMERICAN JOB CENTER HAWAII AVAILABLE FOR IN-PERSON COMPUTER USE



The American Job Center Hawaii (AJCH) re-opened its in-person computer use to job seekers on July 1 to support applications for unemployment benefits.

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Community Services operates the AJCH, a one-stop center that provides free employment training services to job seekers. Since the beginning of the stay-at-home order, AJCH Job Resource Specialists have been working with job seekers to support job training and job placement opportunities through phone and online appointments. To make an appointment, job seekers can email [ajch@honolulu.gov](mailto:ajch@honolulu.gov) or call (808) 768-5701.

Scheduled computer time at the AJCH is available; however, the office remains closed to walk-in customers. Customers may schedule appointments for one hour of computer time by calling (808) 768-5701 or via email at [ajch@honolulu.gov](mailto:ajch@honolulu.gov). Computer time is for individuals to complete job searches or to file for unemployment benefits online. Customers are required to wear facial coverings and remain six feet apart from others throughout their time at the AJCH.

## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Is your 'ohana facing financial hardship due to COVID-19 impacts?

The City & County of Honolulu's Household Hardship Relief Program may be able to assist in directly paying expenses

#### Eligible Expenses may include:

- Childcare expenses to providers recognized by the Department of Human Services
- Rent or Mortgage
- Gas or electric utilities
- Emergency household expenses

#### Program Requirements:

- Economic hardship due to COVID-19 or related business closures
- O'ahu resident age 18 or older
- Meet asset and income limits at the time of the application

#### Household Income Limits:

- \$120,500 for a family of 4
- Visit [www.honolulu.gov/dcs](http://www.honolulu.gov/dcs) for limits for other household sizes

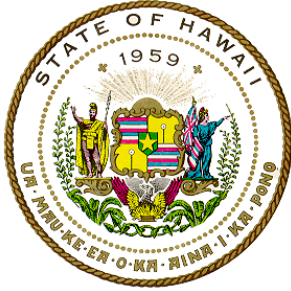


### APPLY TODAY

through one of our non-profit partners

- Aloha United Way  
(2-1-1 or 808-275-2000)
- Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (808-596-8155)

**Questions? Contact our providers above or visit [www.honolulu.gov/dcs](http://www.honolulu.gov/dcs) or [www.oneoahu.org](http://www.oneoahu.org)**



My office continues to serve you. Feel free to email us at [senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov) or call (808) 587-7200.

[Senate Special Committee on COVID-19](#)

[House Select Committee on COVID-19 Economic and Financial Preparedness](#)

[Economic and Community Recovery](#)

For questions about exemptions,  
email [CovidExemption@hawaii.gov](mailto:CovidExemption@hawaii.gov)

To volunteer your time and resources to assist in the  
response effort, email [CovidKokua@hawaii.gov](mailto:CovidKokua@hawaii.gov)