

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING
DISTRICT 14

KAPALAMA • 'ALEWA • KALIHI VALLEY • FT. SHAFTER • RED HILL • MOANALUA GARDENS & VALLEY
PORTIONS OF HALAWA & 'AIEA



SENATE COVID-19 COMMITTEE MEETS WITH HEALTH CARE LEADERS

The Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 convened an informational briefing on Friday, September 3 to receive an update and assessment on the current pandemic situation from the Hawai'i Pandemic Applied Modeling (HiPAM) organization, the Department of the Attorney General, the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i (HAH) and the State Department of Health (DOH).

HiPAM: COVID-19 FORECAST MODELS

Director Victoria Fan, Thomas Blamey and Dr. Monique Chyba of Hawai'i Pandemic Applied Modeling (HiPAM) provided the committee with the current forecast on COVID-19 transmission and other relevant data.

- ⇒ Honolulu is experiencing an increase in test positivity and a decrease in the number of tests being administered indicating that there is likely a large underreporting of cases.
- ⇒ Forecast models also indicated that hospitalization on O'ahu for COVID-19 would surpass by 500 by September 13 (448 individuals were hospitalized as of Friday, September 3).
- ⇒ There is a risk of a flu and COVID-19 co-occurring epidemic this fall.
- ⇒ Waning vaccine efficacy and increased susceptible population will increase transmission of COVID-19.
- ⇒ Impacts of the coronavirus on pregnant women and children can be long-lasting due to development impacts, not only of COVID-19 but also from co-occurring stress, economic and educational conditions.
- ⇒ Risk of ongoing variants that are not preventable by vaccine.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL: ENFORCING COVID-19 VIOLATIONS

Attorney General Clare Conners provided the committee with information on her department's effort to enforce the current Safe Travel's program for visitors.

- ⇒ Seven individuals have been arrested who entered the state using fraudulent vaccination cards and 60 individuals for violating quarantine rules.
- ⇒ Over 4,000 compliance checks have been conducted since the beginning of the pandemic.
- ⇒ Lack of personnel available to help with enforcement efforts

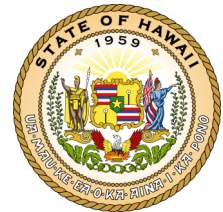
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII: HOSPITAL CAPACITY AND OXYGEN

Hilton Raethel of the Health Care Association of Hawai'i (HAH) and Dr. Libby Char of the Department of the Health provided the committee with information regarding the State's hospital capacity and the current medical oxygen situation.

- ⇒ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is deploying 650 registered nurses, respiratory therapists and other technicians to healthcare facilities across the State. Most of these personnel will be in Hawai'i by mid-September.
- ⇒ There is a staffing shortage in long-term health (LTC) care facilities, assisted living facilities, home healthcare and hospice care. To address this issue, HAH presented a \$10,628,000 proposal for an eight-week deployment of 242 post-acute personnel to increase capacity at various facilities statewide. HAH is currently seeking funding for this proposal.
- ⇒ FEMA has tentatively approved a request from the State Department of Health (DOH) to provide six teams to support subcutaneous monoclonal antibody (MOAB) treatment at various hospitals, which can be used for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms and help to limit the number of hospitalizations for individuals with COVID-19.
- ⇒ The State's two oxygen producers, Matheson and Air Gas Hawai'i are operating at maximum capacity. Demand for medical oxygen has increased significantly due to the number of individuals hospitalized with COVID-19. While oxygen conservation measures are being implemented statewide, there is enough medical oxygen in the State to meet the demand should Hawaii reach its peak of cases in the coming weeks.
- ⇒ Hospitals are near the point where they may not be able to provide ICU care for all patients needing it; leaving patients with the possibility of not receiving the optimal level of care that they need.

To view a rebroadcast of the 9/3/21 informational briefing, visit the [Hawaii State Senate's YouTube](#) page.

HAWAII SENATE NEARLY FULLY VACCINATED



The State Senate has released employee COVID-19 vaccination numbers and found that as of September 1, 98.6% of the 140 Senate personnel (which includes Senators, employees, volunteers and interns) are fully vaccinated.

Effective September 1, 2021, Senate personnel were required to be fully vaccinated. Members and/or staff with a medical condition or sincerely held religious belief are able to request reasonable accommodations in lieu of vaccinations, and if approved, will be subject to alternative safety and preventive measures such as weekly COVID-19 testing.

Zero requests for medical or religious accommodations were received as of September 2.

SAFE ACCESS OAHU STARTED TODAY, SEPTEMBER 13

The Safe Access Oahu program, which started today, will require you to provide proof of vaccination to enter certain venues. Alternately, you may also show a negative COVID-19 test taken within the last 48-hours to enter.

Which businesses will be requiring proof of vaccination or a negative test?

- ⇒ Restaurants offering any on-site dining
 - * If the restaurant is doing only take-out orders or only delivery orders, proof of vaccination or negative test is not required
- ⇒ Indoor recreational activities like bowling alleys, movie theaters, museums
- ⇒ Indoor areas of recreational activities like zoos, aquariums, pools, cultural attractions, and mini golf
- ⇒ Gyms, fitness centers, yoga, and dance studios

Is this a permanent program?

At this time, the City has stated the program will run for 60 days to collect data and evaluate its effectiveness.

What can use as proof of vaccination?

- ⇒ A copy of a state-approved vaccination card
 - * You may simply use a photo of your vaccination card on your phone to show as proof
- ⇒ A state-approved digital app with your vaccination status (like the Safe Travels Program app)

In addition to your vaccine information, you will need an ID that matches the name on your card to prove that it is yours. Some examples of accepted proof of vaccination are below:

What can I use as proof of a negative COVID-19 test?

You may use any test that is authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or approved molecular test, or antigen test taken within 48 hours of entering the establishment.

Where can I get COVID-19 vaccination or testing done?

For a list of vaccination sites, visit oneoahu.org/find-vaccine

For a list of COVID-19 testing sites, visit oneoahu.org/covid19-testing

SENATE COMMITTEES ATTEND CLARENCE T.C. CHING FIELD SITE VISIT

On August 31, members of the Higher Education and Ways & Means Committees went on a site visit of the Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Complex. As the Higher Education Chair, Sen. Kim was able to see up close the renovations made to expand the facility to accommodate and help support the entire UH Manoa intercollegiate athletic program.



NEED A RIDE TO YOUR VACCINE APPOINTMENT?

Lyft and Uber are offering free rides to and from vaccination sites. Sign up for a ride at lyft.com/vaccine-access or uber.com/us/en/coronavirus.

RIDE FREE TO YOUR VACCINE



Hawaii State Capitol, Room 218
415 S. Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: (808) 587-7200
Fax: (808) 587-7205

Email: senkim@capitol.hawaii.gov
Website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov

USEFUL COVID-19 WEBSITES

- ⇒ COVID-19 STATE OF HAWAII PORTAL - <https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019>
 - State DOH website updated daily
 - * Case counts
 - * Vaccine numbers
 - * Cases by residence status and travel history
 - * Cases and deaths broken down by race, age, gender, underlying health conditions
 - * Cluster reports
 - * Long-term care facilities with reported cases

- ⇒ SAFE TRAVELS PROGRAM - hawaiiicovid19.com
 - * Pre-travel testing program
 - * Travel.hawaii.gov - upload mandatory travel and health forms, proof of vaccination

- ⇒ DOE COVID-19 - hawaiipublicschools.org
 - * Case counts broken down by each school

- ⇒ HiEMA COVID-19 - hiema-hub.hawaii.gov
 - * Hospitalization numbers
 - * ICU beds and ventilators
 - * Economic trends - unemployment rates, recovery forecast, visitor stats, local business guidance

- ⇒ C&C HONOLULU ONEOAHU - <https://www.oneoahu.org>
 - * Find COVID test locations
 - * Safe Access Oahu Program
 - * Tier System, Mask Requirements
 - * Financial Assistance Programs, including Rent and Utility Relief Program
 - * CARES Act funds dashboard - how the federal funds are distributed