



CAPITOL UPDATE

Representative Lisa Kitagawa



MORE HAWAII COVID-19 INFO INSIDE

For more information about specific state programs (unemployment, education, taxes, and healthcare), see inside.

The United States Congress recently passed an unprecedented \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the largest emergency relief package in American history, as well as the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. **\$1.25 billion** in funding will help the state and county governments with Hawaii's COVID-19 response efforts, which includes funding to hospitals and health care workers. I have highlighted some of the ways that this federal aid will directly help our State and our community below:

- **Direct Cash Payments to Hawaii's People through a One-Time Cash Payment**
 - Individuals will get \$1,200 (joint filers get \$2,400) plus \$500 per child.
 - Benefits start to phase out for those with incomes exceeding \$150,000 for married couples, \$75,000 for individuals, and \$112,500 for single parents.
 - Payments will not go to single filers earning more than \$99,000; head-of-household filers with one child, more than \$146,500; and more than \$198,000 for joint filers with no children.
- **Unemployment Assistance, Including Independent Contractors, Gig-Economy Workers, and Self-Employed Individuals**
- **Emergency Paid Sick and Family and Medical Leave**
- **Expansion of Health and Nutrition Programs, including SNAP, WIC and Programs for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities**
- **Assistance for Homeowners and Renters**
- **Small Business Assistance**
- **Assistance for the Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fishing Industries**

To learn more about these and other federal relief efforts, visit U.S. Senator Brian Schatz's website at: <https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus>

CDC RECOMMENDED SAFETY TIPS

Prevention is key and the best way to keep yourself from getting COVID-19 is to 1) social distance by remaining 6 ft away from others; 2) wash your hands regularly; 3) avoid close contact & shelter-in-place; 4) cover your nose and mouth with a cloth face mask whenever around others; 5) cover coughs and sneezes; 6) clean and disinfect regularly

Dept. of Education Updates

Schools remain closed until at least **April 30, 2020** and in-school instruction is on hold until they reopen. Schools will provide distance learning and/or learning packets. Parental resources at: bit.ly/HIDOEVirtualLearningParentResource

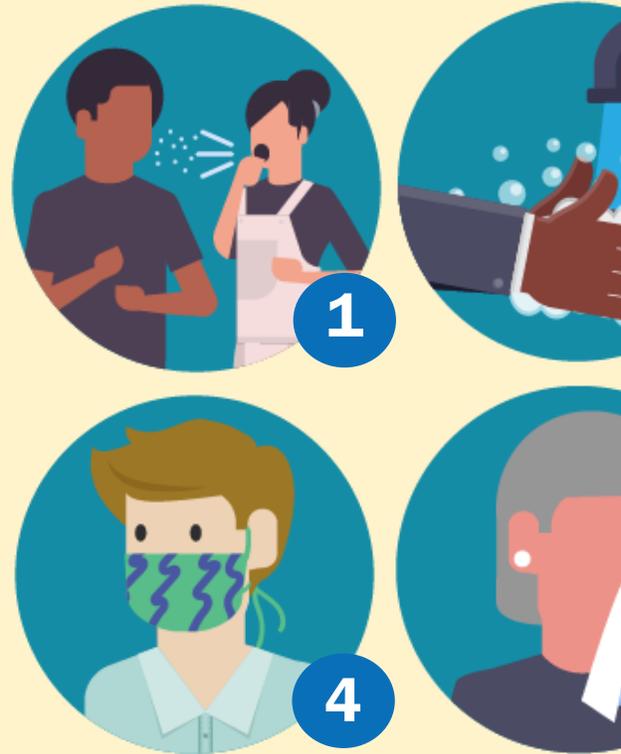
Graduating Students: The Board of Education approved the DOE's modifying high school graduation requirements for the Class of 2020, utilizing 3rd quarter grades to determine the final grades. More info on DOE's COVID-19 page: www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

Educational Resources:

Representative Matayoshi and I have put together an "Educational Resources for Parents and Families" flyer to encourage learning at home. Visit <https://www.windwardmenu.com/> under "Windward Resources".

Other Useful Resources:

- Hawaii State Public Library: (e-books, audiobooks, digital subscriptions, online classes) www.librarieshawaii.org/
- Office on Early Learning: info and resources focused on children (Pre-K to K) <https://earlylearning.hawaii.gov/resources/resources-for-families/>



Unemployment & COVID-19 in the Workplace

Filing for Unemployment Benefits

If you are out of work and not being paid, you may be eligible for **Unemployment Insurance (UI)**. This includes independent contractors, gig-economy workers, and those who are self-employed. To apply for UI, visit: <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/> (click on the green bar, "For New Claims, Please Complete This Form") or call (833) 901-2275 for an appointment (if you are unable to file online).

Filing for COVID-19 Related Temporary Disability Benefits

If you are unable to work because you are ill or quarantined because of COVID-19, but your employer is still open, you may be eligible for **Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI)**. You must have a doctor's note and cannot be receiving UI or WC. Contact your employer for their TDI carrier, or contact Hawaii's Disability Compensation Division at (808) 586-9151.

Filing for COVID-19 Related Workers Compensation Benefits

If you are ill with COVID-19 because of your job, you may be eligible for **Workers' Compensation (WC)**. Your contraction of COVID-19 must be directly attributable to your job duties, and you cannot be receiving UI or TDI. Contact your employer, inform them of your illness, and ask for the contact information for their WC carrier, or contact Hawaii's Workers' Compensation Division at (808) 586-9183.



Small Business COVID-19 Assistance

Are you a small business owner who has been impacted by COVID-19 and the related policies such as the State and County shelter-in-place orders? Your business may be eligible for federal assistance, including the following:

Paycheck Protection Loans

The Paycheck Protection Program provides federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain their payroll during COVID-19. These loans may be forgiven if borrowers maintain their payrolls during the crisis or restore their payrolls after.

Economic Disaster Loans

The Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program provides up to \$2 million in low-interest loans for small businesses, as well as an emergency grant of up to \$10,000.

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz

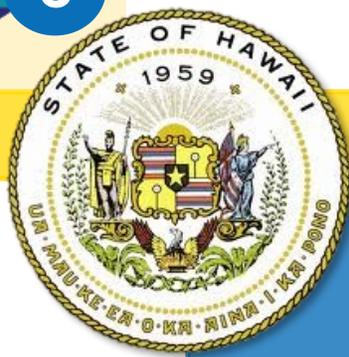
www.schatz.senate.gov

Chamber of Commerce of HI
Small Business Administration
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

covid19.cochawaii.org/

www.sba.gov/

www.uschamber.com/coronavirus



Health Insurance

If your healthcare insurance coverage has been affected by a COVID-19 job loss or reduction in work hours:

You may qualify for low-cost health insurance through QUEST, or a subsidized health insurance obtained through the Federal Marketplace (call 1 (800) 318-2596 or visit <https://www.healthcare.gov/> for more information).

Med-QUEST is Hawaii's statewide provider of the federal Medicaid program. Anyone can apply and eligibility is determined based on income, which takes into consideration household size, # of dependents and health status. To determine your eligibility, apply at: <https://medical.mybenefits.hawaii.gov/> or call (808) 524-3370.

Meal Support for Those in Need

Free Student Meals: The DOE and YMCA are providing breakfast and lunch to children 18 years or younger. Students can stop by one of the designated schools to pick up a grab-and-go meal.

The following schools in our district provide meals on weekdays: **Kahaluu Elementary, King Intermediate, Ben Parker Elementary, and Heeia Elementary.** Breakfast Service Hours: 7:30am – 8:00am & Lunch Service Hours: 11:30am – 12:00pm. The YMCA also provides lunch at **Puohala Elementary** from 11:30am – 12:30pm on weekdays until May 8th.

KEY Project lunches: KEY Project, in collaboration with Kupu and Aloha Harvest, are providing families in-need with free lunch on weekdays. The drive-thru pick up will begin at 11:30 am at the KEY Project (47-200 Waihee Road) until April 30th. Lunch is served on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, call (808) 239-5777.

Canned food: The Hawaii Food Bank provides emergency food assistance in our community. Visit <http://www.hawaiifoodbank.org/covid-19>, and click on the "Oahu Emergency Food Assistance" link for a list of food distribution sites.

The Windward Menu (<https://www.windwardmenu.com/>) website also provides a flyer, "Windward Community Resources for our Vulnerable Populations" for those in need under the "Windward Resources" tab.

State Representative

LISA
KITAGAWA



Proudly Serving Kane'ohe to Wai'ahole

415 S Beretania St, Room 310
Honolulu, HI 96813

COVID-19 INFO & RESOURCES INSIDE As of April 7, 2020

**Mahalo to all of our essential
workers, healthcare workers,
and first responders!**

For more info on the
COVID-19 virus, email:
repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov
or visit:
HawaiiCovid19.com

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY DURING COVID-19

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and well-being of the public, the State Capitol is closed and the Legislature has suspended the 2020 legislative session indefinitely. During this time, my office continues to serve you and our community. Please feel free to reach out to me (808-586-8540, repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov) if you have any questions or need assistance. Our office will make every effort to continue to address your needs. I am committed to work diligently with my colleagues to do everything we can to respond to this ever-changing situation. Let's continue to take care of each other by practicing social distancing to keep our community safe. Mahalo for your patience and understanding and the opportunity to serve you!

In an effort to keep our community equipped and updated, we've created our WindwardMenu.com website, which includes local restaurants that are still open and operating, resources for our community, and ways to help while staying at home.

E-communications can be the fastest way to disseminate rapidly-changing information. Please visit the website and/or subscribe to our e-newsletter by emailing us to add you at repkitagawa@capitol.hawaii.gov.



New Website with Our Community's COVID-19 Resources