

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING
DISTRICT 14

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



ALOHA FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS!

Last week, the Council on Revenues projected a 7% decline in the economy for fiscal year 2020 and a 12% decline in fiscal year 2021. However, based on the Council's projections and using the federal CARES Act funds, strategic budget cuts and possibly federal loans, we are hopeful that the state can weather the economic downturn without imposing school furloughs, statewide pay cuts or cuts to critical social services.

The Legislature has appropriated about \$562.5 million in CARES Act funds to the counties to provide COVID-19 response support, including rent subsidies, direct food aid and business support to residents in need. Of the \$1.2 billion total, \$635 million of the CARES Act money will be moved into the State's Emergency and Budget Reserve Fund or "Rainy Day" fund to hold until a decision can be made in mid June, when the Legislature reconvenes, on how to best use the funds.

The Senate Special Committee on COVID-19, of which I am a member, continues to meet regularly. Just last week, the committee explored how the state could reopen tourism ever mindful of the public's health. We looked at how other countries are exploring at opening via a "travel bubble" to allow a quarantine-free travel zone between countries (or states) that have contained the virus, e.g., the Balkan region (Estonia-Lithuania-Latvia), Germany-Austria, New Zealand and Australia. The committee heard from and agreed to support the Hawaii Executive Collaborative that is developing a pilot Japan-Hawaii travel bubble.

You can visit the committee's webpage at capitol.hawaii.gov to view all things committee related, including detailed summary reports of each meeting. Additionally, the meetings are televised live on Olelo 49.

I will continue to keep you informed on developments at the Legislature in the weeks to come.

BUSINESSES AND SERVICES CLEARED TO REOPEN

More businesses and operations were approved last week to safely re-open on Oahu. Many more were cleared to open starting this Friday, June 5, and approval from the Governor is still pending for the re-opening of movie theatres, museums, and fitness centers on June 19.

On May 29th, "personal service providers" and outdoor attractions were cleared to open, with modifications. They included:

- Barbers
- Hairdressers
- Nail technicians
- Tattoo artists
- Other beauty operators
- Sea life attractions
- Water parks
- Pools
- Campgrounds
- People's Open Markets
- Shooting and Archery Ranges
- Similar outdoor facilities

Starting June 5, business/commercial businesses, including restaurants, indoor residential, non-commercial gatherings of 10 or less (regardless of household) will be allowed.

INTERISLAND TRAVEL QUARANTINE LIFTED ON JUNE 16

On Monday, Gov. Ige lifted the mandatory interisland travel quarantine for Hawaii residents starting June 16.

The state Department of Transportation will require thermal screening at the airport for everyone traveling inter-island. HDOT will also require travelers to fill out a new form that will now also ask for health-related information to assist the state in tracking and responding to new COVID-19 cases.

Travelers may be prohibited from boarding a flight if they have an elevated temperature above 100.4 degrees, they refuse to complete the mandatory form, or they are on the 14-day quarantine list prohibiting them from flying.

A target date when trans-Pacific can reopen will be announced next week, but the Governor noted that states that reopened had a surge in coronavirus cases.

JUNE 2020

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT URGES RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON & CONSIDER COVID-19 CHALLENGES

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) announced there is a 75% chance of near – or below-normal tropical cyclone activity during the Central Pacific hurricane season this year which begins on Monday, June 1 and runs through November 30. In addition, CPHC stated that this year’s outlook calls for two to six tropical cyclones for the Central Pacific hurricane region. Tropical cyclones include tropical depressions, named storms and hurricanes.

Residents should also include face coverings and hand sanitizers to their customary 14-day hurricane supply kit. The Department of Emergency Management (DEM) encourages all residents to take the following five actions at the start of the hurricane season.

⇒ **Make a Shelter Plan**

Create a family Emergency Shelter Plan for where you will stay during a hurricane. If your home was not built or retrofitted to withstand hurricane-force winds, we recommend evacuating to friends or family that have hurricane resistant homes or at your workplace. Please remember that while hurricane evacuation shelters offer some protection from high winds, flying debris, storm, surge and flooding they are intended to be a last resort option for residents and visitors without safer options to use, at their own risk.

If a hurricane evacuation shelter is your only safe option, be prepared to take additional steps to prevent the spread of illness at the shelter. In addition to your 14-Day Disaster Supply Kit, take cleaning items with you like soap, hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, or general household cleaning supplies to disinfect surfaces you may need to touch regularly. Bring 2-3 cloth face coverings per person and detergent to wash them regularly.

If your home was built or retrofitted to withstand hurricane-force winds, we recommend identifying a safe room and sheltering in place. Given the current concerns with COVID-19 sheltering-in-place at home in a safe room is really the best option if possible.

⇒ **Review Home or Renters Insurance Policies**

Remember that homeowners insurance alone will not cover hurricane damage. You will need separate policies for hurricane as well as flood insurance to protect against damage from coastal flooding. You can buy flood insurance separately through the National Flood Insurance Program. Make sure to check your plan and know what your existing insurance policies will or will not cover. In addition, homeowners and renters insurance does not always cover all of the damages and losses that may be incurred by a disaster. Know what is and is not covered by your insurance policy. Read *My Insurance Doesn’t Cover What?* to understand your coverage.

⇒ **Prepare Your Home**

DEM highly recommends taking measures to harden your home so you can remain in your safe room with your family, pets, and have easy access to your supplies.

⇒ **Harden Your Home**

Consider home projects that will provide long-term protection against a hurricane. Ideas and instructions can be found in the Homeowners Handbook to Prepare for Natural Hazards.

⇒ **Just-in-Time Actions**

Be prepared to take just-in-time actions to protect your home as a storm approaches:

- * Protect your property. De-clutter drains and gutters.
- * Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans); anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks); and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building.
- * Cover all of your home’s windows. Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows. A second option is to board up windows with 5/8” exterior grade or marine plywood, cut to fit and ready to install.

Build or Update Your 14-Day Disaster Supply Kit

Take the time now to consider disaster preparedness and what actions you or your family will take in the event a hurricane threatens O’ahu. With our geographic isolation and large population, nearing one million residents it could be as long as two-weeks before local disaster relief efforts reach all of those who are affected. Individuals, families and businesses should be prepared to be on their own for at least 14-days. Assemble basic supplies such as food, water, clothing and important medications for a 14-day kit. Also, visit our website at www.honolulu.gov/DEM for more disaster preparedness information and to access downloadable information sheets. In addition, due to COVID-19 concerns, this hurricane season be sure to include cloth face coverings, hand sanitizer, soap, and disinfectant supplies in your 14-Day Disaster Supply Kit. Consider storing more than one gallon of water per person per day for increased sanitation needs. If you have an existing kit, make sure to review its contents and replenish or rotate supplies. **Be sure to add cloth face coverings, hand sanitizer, soap, and disinfectant supplies to your kit.**

Get Informed

Important official emergency information such as evacuation notification and shelter locations will be broadcast over all TV and radio stations as well as official social media. Should your power go out during an emergency such as a hurricane, it then becomes vitally important that each household have a battery-operated radio and spare batteries on hand to receive emergency information. Newer hand-crank generator or solar powered radios are also a good option. Additional preparedness information can also be found on our website at www.honolulu.gov/DEM.

