

# SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING  
DISTRICT 14

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




## NEW TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR TRANS-PACIFIC TRAVELERS

The Governor signed the 16th COVID-19 emergency proclamation on November 23. This new emergency proclamation requires transpacific travelers to have a negative test result from a trusted travel partner before their departure for the State of Hawai'i, in order to bypass the 14-day quarantine. The new policy went into effect on Tuesday, November 24.

Some of the policy changes are:



- ⇒ All transpacific travelers must have a negative test result from a trusted travel partner before their departure for the State of Hawai'i, in order to bypass the 14-day quarantine.
- ⇒ Travelers heading to Hawai'i must upload their negative test result to the Safe Travels system prior to departure or, as an alternative to uploading, bring a hard copy of their negative test result with them when boarding their flight.
- ⇒ Travelers who do not have a negative test result prior to departing for Hawai'i, must self-quarantine for 14 days, without exception
- ⇒ Post-arrival testing and results will not be accepted once a traveler has arrived in the State of Hawai'i.



### KNOW BEFORE YOU TRAVEL!

Effective November 24, stricter travel policies will be enforced for all Trans-Pacific travelers.

- 1** All transpacific travelers **must have a negative test result from a trusted travel partner before their departure for the State of Hawai'i**, in order to bypass the 14-day quarantine.
- 2** Travelers heading to Hawai'i **must upload their negative test result to the Safe Travels system prior to departure** or, as an alternative to uploading, **bring a hard copy of their negative test result with them when boarding their flight**.
- 3** Travelers who do not have a negative test result prior to departing for Hawai'i, **must self-quarantine for 14 days, without exception**.
- 4** **Post-arrival testing and results will not be accepted** once a traveler has arrived in the State of Hawai'i.



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## SENATE CONFIRMS JUDGE TODD EDDINS TO THE HAWAII SUPREME COURT AND STEPHANIE R.S. CHAR TO THE KAUA'I DISTRICT COURT



The Hawai'i State Senate in their second special session of 2020 has confirmed the judicial appointments of First Circuit Court Judge Todd Eddins to the Hawai'i State Supreme Court and Stephanie R.S. Char to the District Family Court of the Fifth Circuit.

Hawai'i Supreme Court Associate Justice Richard Pollack retired in June after reaching the mandatory retirement age of 70, leaving a vacancy on the State's highest court.

The Supreme Court is composed of a chief justice and four associate justices and are initially appointed for a ten-year term. After the initial appointment, the Judicial Selection Commission determines whether a justice will be retained in office. A justice may not serve past the age of 70.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Kim participated in the hearing for both judges.

## SENATE COVID-19 COMMITTEE TO MEET WITH DEPT. OF HEALTH ON DEC. 4

The Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 will convene on Dec. 4 at 2pm to receive an update from the Department of Health (DOH) on prevention and containment of COVID-19 clusters. The committee will also get updated on the DOH dashboard - specifically how the cluster data is obtained and used to identify outbreaks; how it helps prevent surges; and ultimately how the data can assist the State to open safely and remain open.

Representing the DOH will be Dr. Libby Char, Director, Dr. Emily Roberson, Disease Investigation Branch Chief, and Mr. Edward Mersereau, Behavioral Health Services Administration Deputy Director.



Visit [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov) for the livestream link, which will be available shortly before the meeting starts.

## IRS WARN TAXPAYERS OF NEW COVID-RELATED TEXT SCAM

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS), state tax agencies and the tax industry have issued warnings of a new text scam created by thieves that trick people into disclosing bank account information under the guise of receiving the \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment.


The IRS will never text taxpayers asking for bank account information so that an EIP deposit may be made.

The scam text message states: "You have received a direct deposit of \$1,200 from COVID-19 TREAS FUND. Further action is required to accept this payment into your account. Continue here to accept this payment ..." The text includes a link to a fake phishing web address.

This fake phishing URL, which appears to come from a state agency or relief organization, takes recipients to a fraudulent website that impersonates the IRS.gov Get My Payment website. Individuals who visit the fraudulent website and then enter their personal and financial account information will have their information collected by these scammers.

People who receive this text scam should take a screenshot of the text message that they received and then include the screenshot in an email to [phishing@irs.gov](mailto:phishing@irs.gov) with the following information:

- Date/Time/Time zone that they received the text message
- The number that appeared on their Caller ID
- The number that received the text message
- The IRS does not send unsolicited texts or emails. The IRS does not call people with threats of jail or lawsuits, nor does it demand tax payments on gift cards.



**SPREAD JOY,  
NOT COVID-19**  
HELP HAWAII STAY SAFE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

**SHOOTS! DO THIS...**

- ✓ Do enjoy your favorite foods.
- ✓ Do celebrate virtually or outdoors in small numbers.
- ✓ Do wear a mask when not eating or drinking.
- ✓ Do wash your hands often and practice social distancing.
- ✓ Do follow all state and county safety orders.
- ✓ Do get your flu shot.
- ✓ Do stay home if you have mild COVID-19 or flu symptoms.

**NAH! DON'T DO THIS...**

- ✗ Don't share utensils or plates.
- ✗ Don't gather indoors or in large groups.
- ✗ Don't endanger the ones you love, especially kupuna.
- ✗ Don't come into close contact with others.
- ✗ Don't touch your face.
- ✗ Don't get frustrated. This pandemic will end.
- ✗ Don't give hugs, give shakas instead.

## STATEWIDE MASK MANDATE CLARIFIED IN 15TH PROCLAMATION; EVICTION MORATORIUM EXTENDED TILL END OF YEAR

Governor Ige has issued a 15th COVID-19 emergency proclamation that extends and clarifies the statewide mask mandate as agreed to by all four counties and the state. The proclamation reads: "All individuals shall wear face coverings over their noses and mouths when in public settings."

The 15th emergency proclamation also specifies that "an owner or operator of any business or operation shall refuse admission or service to any individual who fails to wear a face covering, unless an exception applies." Those who do not may be subject to enforcement, including fines and mandatory closure. In addition, the proclamation now requires all hotel operators in the state to adopt a COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan for each property. It also makes clear that it is the responsibility of the hotel operator to accommodate guests (on or off site) who become COVID-19 positive or have been identified as a close contact of someone who is COVID-19 positive. Hotel operators are required to submit their plan to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority and publish it on their website.

The proclamation also extends the moratorium on evictions for non-payment of rent until it expires on Dec. 31, 2020.



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