

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING
DISTRICT 14

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



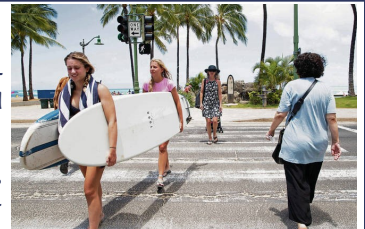
MASK REQUIREMENT FOR OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES LIFTED

Governor Ige has issued an amendment to the 19th emergency proclamation, lifting the mask mandate for all individuals outdoors, effective immediately. Mask wearing is still highly recommended outdoors, when in large groups. The indoor mask mandate remains unchanged.

The suspension of ocean sports competitions beginning June 1 was also lifted. This includes surfing, canoeing and swimming events, among others. The state will resume issuing permits for ocean activities, and the counties will issue permits for the use of parks. Permits will be issued with the understanding that health and safety protocols are followed to protect communities, contestants, and spectators.

In addition, Governor Ige approved the City and County of Honolulu's request to lift canopy restrictions and allow tournaments in city parks, effective June 1. He also approved the County of Kaua'i's updated Business & Recreation Guidelines tier chart. The new chart adds a Tier 5 and a Tier 6, which will further loosen restrictions on Kaua'i when Hawai'i reaches COVID-19 vaccination milestones.

Gov. Ige expects to make changes to the Safe Travels program in June. The next step would be to provide quarantine exceptions to transpacific travelers who were vaccinated in Hawai'i. In addition, the state continues to work with third-party verification services and hopes to offer the same quarantine exceptions to travelers vaccinated in other states later this summer.



JOB SEARCH REQUIREMENT REINSTATED FOR UNEMPLOYMENT RECIPIENTS



Hawai'i residents currently receiving unemployment insurance benefits will again be required to prove they are searching for work.

Gov. David Ige and the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) announced the job search requirement that was suspended during the pandemic, will be reinstated starting May 30, 2021.

Under the reinstated requirement, claimants must make at least three job search contacts per week. This includes registering for work on HireNet Hawai'i, applying for jobs by submitting a resume, or attending a job fair. Individuals must keep a written log of job contacts and must be ready to submit the log to the UI Division upon request. Failure to do so could result in ineligibility for UI benefits.

The reinstated job search requirement applies to individuals who have lost their full-time jobs and are on regular unemployment or Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation. Individuals who are still attached to their regular full-time employer, are members of a union that provides job placement services, or are receiving Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits are not mandated by law to meet the job search requirement.

Claimants can find additional information on specific programs such as PUA, and alerts related to fraud protection and security. Employers can find information on how to report individuals who refuse to return to work or accept an offer of suitable work, which is grounds for UI ineligibility.

For this information go to: hawaiiunemploymentinfo.com



SUMMER MEALS PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN START JUNE 4

The State's Department of Education's Grab-and-Go meal service will continue to provide meals to the community during the summer. All children ages 18 and younger may participate at the approximately 80 distribution sites, regardless of their enrollment status.

The summer meals program will begin on June 4 and run until July 19. There will be no meal distribution service between June 1 and June 3. Meal distribution will be at lunchtime only. Pick-ups will include one lunch for that day and one breakfast for the following day, per child.

Families are encouraged to visit their nearest participating school — and not visit multiple locations — to ensure that schools can produce the appropriate number of meals each day. Please contact the school of your choice for more details. Sponsor sites at public agencies, churches and nonprofit organizations will also be distributing meals to children over the summer. Details will be forthcoming. Click [here](#) for a current list of meal locations.

Parents or guardians who choose to pick up meals without their child(ren) present must provide one of the following verification documents daily:

- ⇒ Official letter or email from school listing child(ren) enrolled.
- ⇒ Recent student report card(s).
- ⇒ Attendance record(s) from parent portals of school websites.
- ⇒ Birth certificate(s) of child(ren).
- ⇒ Student ID card(s).
- ⇒ Driver's permit/license(s) for high school students.
- ⇒ State-issued ID of the student.

For special diet accommodations, please send an email to specialdiets@k12.hi.us.

MORATORIUM WILL NOT TRIGGER DISCONNECTIONS

Hawaiian Electric will not disconnect customers with past due accounts immediately after May 31, 2021, the end of the moratorium on disconnections set by the Public Utilities Commission. But customers are urged to act now to set up a payment plan to avoid disconnection in the future.



Hawaiian Electric

Customers may go to hawaiianelectric.com/paymentarrangement to see payment plan options, including an 18-month plan for residential customers, and submit a request. (Late fees and interest are waived while on a plan.) The payment arrangement request form and an informational flyer are available in eight languages on Hawaiian Electric's website.

To ensure the lights stay on, thousands of residential and smaller commercial customers who meet the threshold for disconnection will automatically have their balance rolled into a 12-month payment plan starting in July. The auto-enrollment will apply to customers behind on payments who do not make contact with Hawaiian Electric. Those customers will receive a notice with their bill when the payment plan starts that explains how the arrangement works, including instructions on how to opt out.

Bills for customers on payment plans – auto-enrolled or by customer request – will include the current charges, plus the installment amount. The installment amount will differ for each customer. If a customer's past due amount is small, the installment amount will also be a fraction of the bill. However, if a customer has not made any payment toward their account over this past year, the total monthly bill could more than double.

If a customer does not pay the amount due while on a payment plan, it may trigger collection activity and service may be disconnected at some point in the future. Contact Hawaiian Electric right away for assistance or to make an adjustment to the payment arrangement.

Customers experiencing hardship related to the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to seek government and nonprofit agency assistance. Hawaiian Electric does not administer these programs, but it works with many of these agencies. See a listing of resources at hawaiianelectric.com/COVID19.

HAWAII RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW INSURANCE POLICIES AND DEDUCTIBLES AHEAD OF HURRICANE SEASON

As hurricane season approaches and Hawaii residents prepare their 14-day emergency kits, the State Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs Insurance Division would like to encourage consumers to review their insurance policies and understand their deductibles.

Consumers need to be aware that standard homeowners and renters insurance policies do not cover hurricane and flood damage. Hurricane insurance can be purchased separately or endorsed onto the policy to supplement home insurance to cover hurricane related damages. Homeowners need to keep in mind that once a tropical storm approaches our islands, insurance companies may issue a moratorium and stop writing any new policies.

In addition, damage caused by flood is not covered by homeowners or hurricane insurance. Because flooding can occur anytime and anywhere, even if you are outside a high-risk area, it is important for consumers to consider adding flood insurance coverage. Consumers who purchase a National Flood Insurance Program policy need to plan ahead as there is typically a 30-day waiting period for the policy to go into effect.

The deductible for a homeowners policy is typically a set dollar amount, potentially ranging from \$500 to \$5,000. There is often an additional deductible for catastrophic coverage, such as hurricane and earthquake. The additional deductible is often expressed as a percentage of the homeowners' dwelling coverage (Coverage A) limit. For example, if the homeowners insurance Coverage A limit is \$400,000 then a five percent deductible for catastrophic coverage would amount to \$20,000.



Consumers should check their policy's Declarations page to understand the amount of their hurricane deductible and contact their agent or insurance company if they have any questions.

Additional information on flood and hurricane insurance can be found on the Insurance Division's website under Consumer Resources at cca.hawaii.gov/ins/resources/

REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT FOR HOMEOWNERS

The City & County of Honolulu offers a real property tax credit for homeowners who meet certain eligibility requirements. If you qualify, the amount of credit that you will receive to reduce your property tax next year will be based on your income and your current year's taxes.

The Eligibility Requirements are as follows:

- * Homeowner must have a home exemption in effect at the time of application and for the subsequent tax year.
- * Any of the titleholders do not own any other property anywhere.
- * The combined income of all titleholders cannot exceed \$60,000.



How to obtain a Tax Credit Application:

Online: <http://www.honolulu.gov/cms-bfs-menu/site-bfs-sitearticles/6416-treasury-division.html>

Call the Tax Relief Office at 768-3205 to request an application and it will be mailed to you.

Applications will be mailed to everyone who applied for the credit in 2020. You should receive the application in late June. The application deadline is September 30, 2021

Note: If you qualify for the credit, the credit will be applied to your property tax bill that you will receive in July of 2022.

For more information or assistance, contact the Real Property Tax Relief Office at 768-3205.



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