

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM



PROUDLY SERVING
DISTRICT 14

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

COVID COMMITTEE MEETS AS CASES SURGE

The Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 convened on August 5 to receive updates from various state agencies and community health organizations on the recent surge of COVID-19 cases.

The Special Committee met to discuss the following items :

Healthcare Industry

- The current and projected hospital capacity for COVID-19 patients; and
- The healthcare industry's plan should hospitals reach a point of overcapacity

Department of Education

- The plan for managing in-person learning during the current infection surge
- The Department's plan regarding Distance Learning
- Details on the Department's protocols for its new free breakfast and lunch program
- Updates on staffing changes due to COVID-19
- The Department's reporting plan for daily COVID-19 cases
- The Department's plan should the State or County step down to Tier 3 or Tier 2; and
- The current action triggers should case numbers rise within the Department of Education

Safe Travels Program

- General updates on the program and potential future changes; and
- Data regarding the utilization of pre-testing, quarantine, and vaccine passports

Administration Updates

- Potential testing and vaccination requirements and associated timelines; and
- Potential changes to the State's tier system and its associated implementation

You can watch the entire meeting on the [Hawaii State Senate's YouTube page](#).



INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING ON UH PROJECTS AND POLICIES

Sen. Kim, Chair of the Higher Education Committee, along with the Ways and Means Committee, held an informational briefing on Monday, August 9 to gather information and receive an update on procurement for the remodeling of the Clarence T.C. Ching Athletics Complex in light of the recent accident and evaluated the policies and procedures regarding outside employment for personnel employed at UH and at the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH).

Due to time constraints an additional briefing will be held later this month to take on the Atherton YMCA project and the UH Cancer Center Early Phase Clinical Trials.

You can watch August 9th's meeting on the [Hawaii State Senate's YouTube page](#).

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY

Senator Kim, a member of the Special Committee on Accountability, has been meeting throughout the interim to conduct fact finding on procurement from various State departments or agencies dealing with large contracts, namely DAGS, DOT, DOE, UH, Housing Agencies (HPHA, HCDA, HHFDC):

- Bids or requests for proposals (RFPs) that have been protested
- Protested bids that were overturned
- RFPs that are written and prepared by hired consultants
- RFPs and contracts using consultants to oversee or manage awarded contracts
- Costs of consultants
- Licensed engineers, architects and other staff assigned to RFPs/Bids/Contract oversight

Information discovered during this process will assist the Senate Standing Committee on Government Operations develop procurement reform legislation to be introduced in the 2022 regular session.

The other members of this committee include Senators Kidani, Dela Cruz, Moriwaki and Fevella.

SENATE TAKES ACTION ON TWO JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

The Senate in their second special session of 2021 took action on July 29 on two judicial appointments. The first action that the Senate took was to approve the appointment of Leslie Maloian to the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

Daniel Gluck notified the Senate of his intent to withdraw his name from the confirmation process to fill a vacancy on the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA). The Senate proceeded with a procedural vote to not advise and consent to his appointment.

Given the Senate's action and pursuant to Article VI, Section 3 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, the Governor made another appointment from the list (that was transmitted to the Governor from the Judicial Selection Commission on June 9, 2021) and nominated Sonja McCullen for the ICA.

The Second Special Session of 2021 has been extended and will reconvene at the end of this month to take on Sonja's nomination.

AUGUST 2021

NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER LIMITS GATHERING SIZES STATEWIDE

Yesterday, the governor signed Executive Order 21-05 setting statewide limits for social gatherings, restaurants, bars, and social establishments.

The following measures will take effect immediately:

- ⇒ Social gatherings will be limited to no more than 10 people indoors and no more than 25 outdoors.
- ⇒ Patrons in restaurants bars and social establishments must remain seated with parties maintaining at least 6 ft distancing between groups (with maximum groups size of 10 indoors and 25 outdoors); there will be no mingling, and masks must be worn at all times except when actively eating or drinking.
- ⇒ The counties will review proposals for all professionally sponsored events for more than 50 people, to ensure that appropriate safe practices will be implemented. Organizers of these professional events must notify and consult with their county agency prior to the event. County approval is required for professional events for more than 50 people.
- ⇒ For all high-risk activities, indoor capacity is set at 50%. This includes bars, restaurants, gyms, and social establishments.

These limitations apply statewide and will be implemented as defined by each county and in accordance with definitions specified by each county. Additionally, the counties will enforce these measures pursuant to county orders, rules, and directives that identify penalties for each county.

Statewide limitations will not affect the counties' COVID-19 policies regarding weddings, churches or other structured events.

The Executive Order will remain in place until Oct. 18, unless superseded by a subsequent order.



UPDATE ON STATE'S VACCINATION RATE

As of August 10, Hawaii has administered about 1.78M vaccine doses, which is 60.9%. Once the vaccination rate reaches 70% or greater, all restrictions will be lifted.

VACCINATION SITES

Neil S. Blaisdell Concert Hall - Queen's Health Systems

Address: 777 Ward Ave Honolulu, HI 96814

Hours: Walk-ins are accepted daily from 11:00 am – 5:30 pm (except Tuesdays).

Kapiolani Medical Center - Hawaii Pacific Health

Address: 521 Ala Moana Blvd Honolulu, HI 96813

Hours: Walk-ins 8 a.m. to noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and noon to 4 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Queen's West Oahu Vaccination Center

Address: 91-2141 Fort Weaver Rd, Ewa Beach, HI 96706

Hours: Appointment Only

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



FREE MEALS FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS

All students at Hawaii's 257 public schools will receive free breakfast and lunch meals for the entirety of the 2021-22 school year, thanks to a nationwide waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Federal funds will reimburse state education departments for meal costs.

The waiver aims to minimize the possible spread of COVID-19 at schools across the country by eliminating meal payment transactions in school cafeterias, settings where students and cashiers may not be able to maintain proper social distancing. Federal funds will reimburse state education departments for meal costs.

Parents and guardians who have not yet purchased meal credits for the upcoming school year via the EZMealApp mobile app or through their school do not need to take any action. Those who have already purchased meal credits in advance may choose to leave funds in the account for the following school year or contact their child's school to request a refund.

Students will only receive meals at their school of enrollment. One meal per breakfast session and one per lunch session will be free of charge. Additional meals or meal items taken at the same session will be charged a normal rate.

Parents are highly encouraged to continue to submit their Free and Reduced Price Lunch Meal Benefits applications online using the EZMealApp mobile app or at EZMealApp.com, where applicable, as information derived from the application directly impacts eligibility for other school programs, such as bus transportation and Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) food assistance.

For more information, contact the School Food Services Branch at (808) 784-5500.



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