



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Chung Chang, Deputy Director
Department of Business Economic Development & Tourism

FROM: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senate Special Committee on COVID-19

RE: Economic Recovery: Status of Act 9 Programs

This committee, as has the Committee on Ways and Means, looked toward your department's plan to re-diversify our economy with bold programs for retraining and workforce development using CARES Act funds in the amount of \$36 million and for innovative grants to create a supply chain for cleaning supplies and PPE in the amount of \$15 million as well as partnerships with the University of Hawaii and other agencies. We understood that you had a plan and were working with various state and private agencies to achieve new industries and businesses, create jobs, and train our workforce. Of particular interest was your working with the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations and its network of employers and workforce development agencies to ensure that we immediately assist the unemployed.

As the federal funds must be expended by December 28, the committee requests information on the status of the following programs that you proposed, providing the names of partners/contractors, amount funded, number of participants, and number of jobs to be created and/or have been created to date, specifically relating to the following:

- \$36M- retraining and workforce development;
- \$15M- support emerging industries to create a local supply chain of cleaning supplies and PPE, including the names of grant recipients, description on their innovative business, amount of grant, and expected results with timeline; and
- \$3M- support the commercial fishing industry (DBEDT)

Sincerely,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Senator Sharon Moriwaki
Senator Kurt Fevella

Cc. Senate President