



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

May 27, 2020

Mr. Scott Murakami, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
830 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Director Murakami:

Recent events stemming from the outbreak of COVID-19 have caused a time of uncertainty among many industries, as well as the people throughout our state. It is our responsibility to properly prepare every sector for the future and ensure no one is left behind in the process of economic and financial recovery.

It has been brought to the attention of the Committee that many residents required medical care prior to the state's shelter in place orders, and in some cases, major surgeries were canceled. As we work to return to a state of normalcy, it has become apparent that those who were awaiting surgery, claimants previously on TDI, are now faced with the possibility of those benefits being exhausted after the 26-week period.

The Committee asks that you provide some clarification on the process of renewing benefits upon the reopening of the state. Please make sure to clarify any extension of benefits proposed by your office, or the executive branch as well as any critical points of order concerning this matter.

The Committee appreciates your attention to this matter and respectfully requests a response by **4:00 p.m., Monday, June 1, 2020**. Please email your response to all Senate Special Committee COVID-19 members. Should you have any questions, please contact Dane Wicker at 586-6639 or via email at d.wicker@capitol.hawaii.gov.

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
All Senators