



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ**

May 27, 2020

TO: Mr. Scott Murakami, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations

FROM: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

RE: RUDDER

During WAM/EET Informational Briefing you briefly discussed the department's RUDDER program which is available for Unemployment Insurance (UI) recipients to obtain training. Given the employment challenges the state will undoubtedly face for the foreseeable future, we are concerned about the over 43,000 applicants who were denied traditional UI benefits and would not have access to programs such as your department's RUDDER program.

Given these concerns could you please provide us with the following updates:

- What is current numbers and status of claimants denied;
- What services, resources, or trainings are available to these claimants;
- What funding and resources would you require to expand your current programs to service claimants that are not eligible for traditional UI benefits; and
- Are there any partnerships that allow you to refer claimants directly to benefit programs in other departments such as DHS?

As we move forward, we hope to take swift action when the legislature reconvenes in June to support the programs that will aide in stabilizing our current economic woes. Investing in unemployment programs such as this may help us take a significant step in that direction.

Director Murakami

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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 WAM Committee members. Should you have any questions, please contact Dane Wicker at 586-6639 or via email at [d.wicker@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:d.wicker@capitol.hawaii.gov).

Mahalo.

Cc: Senate President  
WAM Committee Members