



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

May 21, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Linda Chu Takayama
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor

FROM: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

RE: WAM SB75 Info Briefing: Follow Up Questions

As in the past, the Committee on Ways and Means (WAM) greatly appreciates any support you can provide that will facilitate the development of an effective response to the COVID pandemic. The WAM Committee is attempting to prepare the State for re-opening, as well as a path for economic recovery through appropriate allocations of CARES Act funding.

Please note that throughout the legislative session, the State's financial situation has, and will continue to be, subject to unforeseen changes, decreases, and cuts in federal funding, as well as unexpected expenses. As you prepare your budget recommendations, Program ID ceilings maybe change as information from the Department of Budget and Finance and the Council on Revenues becomes available. This memo contains questions from all Senate members that attended our Committee's briefing for which the Committee request a formal response.

First, regarding the \$20 million allocated to the Department of Transportation, Senator Inouye questioned the allocation set aside for Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL). The Senator highlighted that major carriers are flying weekly to neighbor islands, where these airports are required to implement the same safety protocols with less money. Senator Inouye asked why such a large amount, like \$20 million, was set aside for a single airport expressing her concern in the lack of response to other airports throughout the State. She asked your office for a breakdown of the funding sent to neighbor island airports, aside from HNL.

Senators Dela Cruz and Keith-Agaran inquired about the guidelines in place for counties to avoid the need to repay federal funds due to non-compliance with associated requirements. You indicated that you would be working with the Attorney General to determine those guidelines and provide a copy of that guidance to the Committee once it was complete.

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Furthermore, Senators Moriwaki and Thielen expressed concerns surrounding the State's unemployment backlog and the lack of proposed economic recovery plans. Despite their concerns, it is our understanding that the Governor has a proposed emergency response and economic recovery plan, which should guide decisions on what and when to re-open specific businesses and activities based on levels of alert/disruption. Please provide a copy of the plan, as well as department programs being funded under the State's CARES emergency response budget to address the concerns above.

Senator Favella asked about the disconnect between the arms of law enforcement and why there were reports of HPD making arrests on Oahu. Still, the DLNR has been doing the same on neighbor islands and requested a report on the entire enforcement chain.

Additionally, the Committee would like you to provide answers to the following questions at the date provided below. First, how are the various efforts to date – HiEMA plan, the Public Health Recovery Plan (with levels of alert), and Economic Navigator--used to obtain data for decisions on re-opening?

Additionally, what are the scope and projected outcomes of the Navigator project? For FY20 and FY21, as well as if and how the Administration intends to fund the project past December 30, 2020?

The Committee appreciates your attention to this matter and respectfully requests a response by **4:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 26, 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.

Cc: WAM Committee Members
Senate President