



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 'I 96813

September 16, 2020

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Ige:

RE: Expressing Support for Department of Health Employee Dr. Jennifer Smith

We write to you today not as members of the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19, but as citizens of the State of Hawaii. We are disturbed by the persistent reports of retaliatory actions against Dr. Jennifer Smith for her role in bringing the continued failures of the Department of Health's contact tracing efforts to light. This Committee believes that the bravery she has shown in coming forward was instrumental in correcting the inexcusable deficiencies in these operations and that her actions may prove to save the lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens in the future.

Given the reports of reprisal from remaining Department officials, we ask that you look into the matter and intercede if necessary to ensure that these actions, if true, cease immediately.

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
Department of Health

State Senate, State Capitol
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