



# The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 3, 2020

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

Dear Governor Ige:

RE: Pre-Testing Program

This Committee has supported the administration's efforts to reopen the state safely. Still, we remain concerned with the current airport protocols, particularly the pre-testing program's initial rollout, which has left the counties to account for the program's structuring flaws. Even given their best efforts, the County of Kauai saw a massive uptick in travel-related infections, which has since forced Mayor Kawakami to halt the County's participation in the program temporarily. This Committee finds it unacceptable that the county Mayors be asked to account for this program's shortcomings.

From the beginning, this Committee has pushed for a second Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT), or a plan of multiple Antigen tests, in conjunction with a shortened quarantine. Much of the research provided to this Committee suggests that a second test 3-4 days after arrival, paired with a minimum 7-day quarantine, is the most effective means of identifying the COVID-19 virus in travelers and preventing its spread.

It is also important to note that the Center for Disease Control updated its guidance on December 2, 2020, regarding travel to read as follows:

- Get tested 1-3 days before your flight.
- Get tested 3-5 days after travel **AND** stay home for 7 days after travel.
  - Even if you test negative, stay home for the full 7 days.
  - If you don't get tested, it's safest to stay home for 10 days after travel.
- Always follow [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements related to travel.
- [Delay your](#) travel if you are waiting for test results.

We urged for the inclusion of the above components. Still, we accepted your decision to move forward with the one pre-test program, as your administration assured us that the program would not result in rapid increases in infection counts. However, from what we have seen in Kauai County, this has not been the case.

We request once again that you consider a more effective travel program and provide the following information on why we continue to urge a second test and shortened quarantine:

1. <https://darraghocarrollmd.medium.com/how-hawaii-can-get-coronavirus-right-in-twelve-steps-269555b5892e>
2. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.23.20237412v1.full-text>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-air-travel.html>

The Committee requests that you respond to our recommendation and report on how you are addressing our concerns by **4:00 pm, Monday, December 7, 2020**. Please email your response to all Senate Special Committee COVID-19 members. Should you have any questions, please contact Duncan Osorio at 586-6800 or via email at [d.osorio@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:d.osorio@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  
County Mayors