
SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A COLOR-CODED ADVISORY SYSTEM TO
ADDRESS THE RAPIDLY CHANGING THREAT OF COVID-19.

1 WHEREAS, considering the recent developments regarding
2 COVID-19, or novel coronavirus, which causes a mild to severe
3 respiratory illness, and the increasing danger it poses to our
4 public; and

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6 WHEREAS, the government of the State of Hawaii has a duty
7 to inform and protect its citizens; and

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9 WHEREAS, constituents have many questions based on a lack
10 of information, and it is imperative to not only promote healthy
11 hygiene and social distancing, but to also take steps to assure
12 the public clearly understands the level of threat our
13 communities face; and

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15 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has announced a
16 travel ban on persons arriving from Europe; and

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18 WHEREAS, countries around the world are implementing
19 procedures to combat and attempt to control the threat and
20 spread of COVID-19. For example, Saudi Arabia is restricting
21 travel to holy sites; South Korea is implementing quarantines
22 enforced by criminal charge; Northern Italy is imposing army-
23 guarded lockdowns of its towns, schools, and universities; China
24 has implemented lockdowns of its cities, travel, and other
25 public venues; Japan has closed its schools; France has
26 requested its citizens to abandon the traditional "*bise*"
27 greeting and banned public gatherings of five thousand people or
28 more; Iran has suspended its parliament; and Switzerland has
29 banned gatherings of more than one thousand people; and

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31 WHEREAS, counties and states across our nation are calling
32 for, or have already declared states of emergency, with the
33 states of California, Florida, and Washington having already
34 declared a state of emergency; and



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2 WHEREAS, Mayors of Kauai, Maui, and Honolulu have already
3 issued separate proclamations of emergency to combat the threat
4 of COVID-19; and
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6 WHEREAS, government agencies, such as the Department of
7 Defense and other states, such as Washington, have already
8 implemented tiered response protocols; and
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10 WHEREAS, Hawaii state government needs to present a
11 unified, cohesive response in the form of a singular,
12 universally applicable tiered response protocol that informs the
13 public and state agencies alike of both the current threat level
14 posed by COVID-19 and the government's according response; and
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16 WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has previously
17 implemented a color-coded advisory system used to communicate
18 risk levels for previous threats to the public's health and
19 welfare that is easily understood by and familiar to the public;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, this previously used advisory system requires
23 clear details in the context of the current situation to be
24 effective; and
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26 WHEREAS, the risk posed by COVID-19 can rapidly change,
27 necessitating a system that can be quickly adjusted to reflect
28 the level of risk posed by COVID-19 as well as the appropriate
29 responses to the various risk levels; and
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31 WHEREAS, this previously used system provides a means for
32 the government to quickly and easily inform the public of
33 updates to the situation and to plan appropriately in the event
34 of changing risk levels; now, therefore,
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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
37 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
38 Governor is urged to create a color-coded advisory system
39 consistent with the system previously developed and used by the
40 Department of Homeland Security to address the rapidly changing
41 threat of COVID-19; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Department of
2 Health, and HIEMA are requested to coordinate with the
3 appropriate government agencies to create a single, unified
4 system that will inform the public and agencies alike of the
5 standing threat level and according government restrictions,
6 protocols and policies; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the risk advisory levels could
9 be denoted as follows:
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- 11 (1) Red - Severe, indicating widespread community
12 transmission, spread is ongoing, the majority of the
13 islands in the State are involved, and recommended
14 actions to be taken include:
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16 (A) Continue all measures from the prior risk level;
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18 (B) Consider restriction of movement, including
19 quarantines, isolations, cancelation of public
20 gatherings, avoiding congregate settings, and
21 practicing social distancing;
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23 (C) Access to public installations are limited;
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25 (D) Cancel community activities; and
26
27 (E) Cancel all non-essential travel; and
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- 29 (2) Orange - Substantial, indicating sustained community
30 transmission, spread is ongoing, and recommended
31 actions to be taken include:
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33 (A) Continue all measures from previous risk level;
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35 (B) Declare Public Health Emergency;
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37 (C) Limit access to some state/public installations;
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39 (D) Cancel large public gatherings and community
40 activities; and
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42 (E) Limit travel; and



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(3) Yellow - Moderate, indicating increased community transmission, multiple people in multiple locations have been infected, spread is contained, and recommended actions to be taken include:

- (A) Continue all measures from the previous level;
- (B) Restrict travel in afflicted communities and advise civilians of the risk;
- (C) Limit access to specific installations; and
- (D) Strongly advise against large public gatherings; and

(4) Blue - Limited, indicating community transmission beginning, sporadic and limited instances of infection, and recommended actions to be taken include:

- (A) Re-emphasize health and hygiene protocols;
- (B) Limit access to areas with direct connection to infected individuals;
- (C) Encourage cancelation of large public gatherings and communities' activities; and
- (D) Warn of risks of travel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each level would include clear instructions regarding the anticipated action of the government, for example, at the Red risk level citizens can expect the government and state facilities, including schools, will be shut down; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this advisory system would also have clear requirements, which would effectuate a change of risk levels, such as the number of COVID-19 cases in the State; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each level would include
2 recommended responses and actions to be taken by the public; and
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, all Executive Branch
6 Directors, Chief Justice, and Mayors of each county.
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