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May 13, 2020

**SENT VIA EMAIL**

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The Honorable Kurt Favella  
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Dear Senators:

We are in receipt of your letter dated May 12, 2020, regarding “investigating and arresting people” who violate the State’s 14-day quarantine order, particularly as they relate to returning residents and visitors who stay at vacation rentals.

The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) is enforcing the quarantine law based on credible evidence within the confines of the law without violating people’s civil rights or by profiling. The HPD has given thousands of warnings, citations, and arrest for violations of Section 127A of the Hawaii Revised Statutes without any assistance from the State.

DKI International Airport is the entry point for all visitors and returning residents. It is at this point that all effective enforcement should begin. All visitors should be staying at traditional hotels, not vacation rentals. They should not be allowed out of the airport unless it is verified that they are staying in a traditional hotel. It is prohibited for them to stay in a vacation rental, legal or otherwise, as they are deemed non-essential

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under the City's Stay at Home Work at Home orders. Better oversights need to be made prior to people leaving the airport. There appears to be a lack of oversight controls at the airport. The Department of Attorney General, Department of Public Safety's Sheriff Division, State Department of Transportation, and the Hawaii Tourism Authority have roles to play for airport quarantine operations, but it is unclear which agency is the lead and taking overall responsibility. Required forms are not being completed or fully verified. There appears to be little follow-up once the visitors leave the airport and the incident command system is not being fully operated.

As an example, the airport personnel are directing visitors to the Provisional Outdoor Screening and Triage (POST) facility. To this date, 15 people have reported to POST from the airport with no place to stay. This indicates that visitors with no residence are being released from the airport. The POST is for the local homeless to get to shelters, not a quarantine facility for visitors. It is evident that when Las Vegas reopens, Hawaii residents will be flocking to and from the ninth island, and the airport operations will not be able to handle the mandatory quarantine which will still apply to returning residents.

Furthermore, the HPD has arrested visitors for violating their quarantine requirements. When they are processed, they are released by the courts on their own recognizance because of the Judiciary's program of lowering the population count in our jails. The HPD is currently working with the courts to keep them in custody to avoid their release.

I believe that the problems you outline start and should be addressed with the quarantine monitoring process at the airport. Our recommendation that the visitors be fully responsible for all expenses and that they be quarantined at a designated hotel or immediately sent back. We hope you will rectify these matters.

Sincerely,



Kirk Caldwell  
Mayor

Cc: Senate President  
All Senators