



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Senator Sharon Moriwaki
Senator Kurt Fevella
Senate Special Committee on COVID-19
Hawai'i State Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Senators:

Thank you for your letter dated March 31, 2020, recommending establishment of an emergency text system for COVID-19 messages. Since the type of system you describe is implemented at the county level, we will advise the counties of your interest in including COVID-19 messages in their broadcasts. I believe Mayor Harry Kim often utilizes his twice-daily texts for COVID-19 safety posts. Although the State has a text communication system, it is reserved for catastrophic or defense purposes as advised by military authorities.

With regard to daily information, we currently hold a press briefing at 2:30 p.m. from Monday through Friday that is aired live on television and social media. These briefings include relevant Administration directors and staff, as well as non-government experts, depending on the subject matter. The information provided is very current, often the result of actions taken minutes earlier. I encourage you to tune in.

In addition, there is a Hawai'i COVID-19 Joint Information Center Daily News Digest that features a report of the latest statistics and a wrap up of all activity in the previous 24 hours, including, from time to time, passenger counts, proclamations, orders, trends, etc. If you wish to have this report emailed to you, please let me know.

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If there is additional information or communication you require, please let me know how we may provide it.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Y. Ige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the word "Ige".

David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i