



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 30, 2020

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

Dear Governor Ige:

RE: Pre-Testing Program & Statewide Mask Policy

As our Committee has been pursuing improved communications to incoming visitors prior to arrival in the state, it has become apparent to this Committee that the slight variations in county mask policies have added unnecessary challenges in providing consistent messaging to the public and visitors. As the county policies themselves appear to be seeking the same result, we believe that a state-wide mask policy would be more appropriate at this time. We believe this would allow for precise and consistent messaging, the benefits of which far outweigh the drawbacks of diminished flexibility at the county level, in this case.

Additionally, for those participating in the state's pre-testing program, we continue to push for a second Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT), or a plan of multiple Antigen tests, after arrival in the state. Given the evidence we have seen of an impending holiday spike, it is of the highest priority of this Committee to prevent additional infection introduction into the public. We believe that the state should only be increasing its visitor counts to the point at which our state and private laboratories' capacity aligns with a testing program, such as the one described above. From what we have seen through our site visits, the laboratories in the state stand ready to meet this need, but their continued capacity should guide our state's efforts to increase or decrease visitor counts.

The Committee requests that you provide a response to each request above by **4:00 pm, Monday, November 2, 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.

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