SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM

PROUDLY SERVING DISTRICT 14

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SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON COVID-19 VISITS HAWAII CONVENTION CENTER TO ASSESS PROGRESS OF CONTACT TRACING AND UNEMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS



On Wednesday, October 28, 2020, the Hawail

Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 performed a site visit to the Hawaii Convention Center to assess the latest contact tracing efforts from the Department of Health's Disease Investigation Branch and Hawaii Emergency Management Agency.

Members of the Committee received an in-depth briefing from the agencies regarding their progress in rebuilding the Department of Health's contact tracing program. Dr. Emily Roberson, who has been heading the branch since July, highlighted the critical components of their restructuring of the program and how the branch's approaches have changed since the Committee's last visit to the Convention Center.

Following the Contact Tracing update, members attended a briefing presented by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Unemployment Insurance Division (UI). They received a report of the division's latest efforts and plans to ensure the financial stability of local residents in the coming months. During the visit, Director Anne E. Perreira-Eustaquio guided the Senators through a tour of their current operations.

The members of the Committee spoke at length with the Director about UI's continued focus on the adjudication of pending claims, which represents the vast majority of the remaining outstanding cases. The Director highlighted the efforts of DLIR staff and the countless volunteers that have donated their time and legal backgrounds towards this cause.

In addition, Director Perreira-Eustaquio presented the department's newest efforts to roll out the Federal-State Unemployment Insurance Extended Benefits program, which launched on October 27, 2020. This program would extend benefits after an unemployed individual exhausts their twenty-six weeks of state unemployment and thirteen weeks of federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation allotments.

In response to questions from the Committee, Director Perreira-Eustaquio provided an overview of the department's continued efforts to identify fraudulent claims. During the discussion, a DLIR employee mentioned that it felt like nearly half of all new unemployment claims appeared to be fraudulent. The Director reassured the Senators that appropriate measures were being taken to detect the fraudulent claims and turn them over to the appropriate authorities.

SENATE ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS AHEAD OF THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

The State Senate announced its 2021 leadership I and committee assignments ahead of the Thirty-First Legislature that opens on January 20, 2021.

Senator Kim will remain Chair of the Higher Education Committee, which has jurisdiction over programs relating to the University of Hawai'i, the community college system, private higher education bond financing, and other education matters relevant to higher education, She will also remain Vice Chair of the Education Committee and a member on the Judiciary Committee.

To view the entire committee assignments and its member composition, visit capitol.hawaii.gov/ senate.aspx.



SENATE TO CONVENE IN SECOND SPECIAL SESSION



The Senate will convene in its second special session the week of November 16 to consider Todd Edins, the nominee to associate justice on the Hawaii Supreme Court. The seat has been vacant since Associate Justice Richard W. Pollack retired in June 2020.

The Hawaii Supreme Court is composed of a chief justice and four associate justices. Justices are initially appointed for a ten-year term. After the initial appointment, the Judicial Selection Commission determines whether a justice will be retained in office. A justice may not serve past the age of 70.

NOV 2020

MONIES RELEASED FOR DISTRICT 14



<u>School:</u> Webling Elementary <u>Project:</u> Finance construction to resurface the parking lot <u>Amount:</u> \$600,000

Estimated Completion Date: August 2021

STATE ID AND DRIVER LICENSES ADDED TO MAIL-IN OPTIONS

The City and County of Honolulu has implemented a new option to allow for replacing by mail a state identification card. The mail-in option is also available for getting exact duplicates of regular and commercial driver licenses, as well as renewing some expiring licenses. These mail-in options will remain for as long as a governor's emergency proclamation is in place during the ongoing pandemic, which is currently through Nov. 30.



Mail-in Options

To minimize the demand for appointments, the City and County of Honolulu is now accepting from eligible residents the following by mail:

- State ID duplicate
- Driver license duplicate
- Driver license duplicate online
- Commercial driver license duplicate by mail
- Driver License renewals for certain two-year and four-year licenses
- Instructional Permit renewals
- Provisional driver license conversion to full driver license

Extension on Expired Driver Licenses

Certain expired Hawaii driver licenses, instructional permits, and state IDs to remain valid through Nov. 30, 2020

- Any Hawaii driver license, instructional permit, or state ID that expires between March 16, 2020, and Nov. 30, 2020, will be considered valid in the state of Hawaii until Nov. 30, 2020, in accordance with Gov. David Ige's 14th supplementary emergency proclamation that extends the COVID-19 emergency period through Nov. 30, 2020
- The extension also applies to a Commercial Driver License, but you must still meet the requirements for a valid Medical Examiner's Certificate (MEC)

ALOHAQ APPOINTMENTS

To make an appointment, go to AlohaQ.org. Please note there is a limit of one transaction or person per appointment. For assistance with driver licensing or state identification card inquiries, please call: (808) 768-9100.



HONOLULU MOVES TO TIER 2

After four weeks in Tier 1, including the final two weeks meeting the necessary requirements, the City and County of Honolulu moved into Tier 2 of the Honolulu Reopening Strategy.

Here are some of the new changes that are now allowed:

- ⇒ Restaurants: Dining groups from different households now allowed
- ⇒ Commercial attractions (like mini golf or cultural attractions): Can open indoor operations
- \Rightarrow Bowling alleys: Can open at full capacity
- \Rightarrow Helicopter tours: Can open at 50% capacity
- \Rightarrow Legal short-term rentals: Can open
- ⇒ Personal care services (like massage): Can open indoor operations
- ⇒ Group fitness classes: Can have groups of 10 outdoors or groups of 5 indoors
- \Rightarrow Gyms and fitness facilities: Can operate at 25% capacity
- \Rightarrow Social gatherings: Up to five people allowed

To move forward to a more relaxed tier:

We will stay in each tier for a minimum of four weeks. In order to move forward, the last two weeks of a tier must meet the following tier's criteria. For example, if we are in Tier 1, in order to move to Tier 2, we must meet Tier 2 criteria (average daily case counts and test positivity rate) for the last two consecutive weeks. If we do not meet the criteria for the last two weeks in a row, we will stay in Tier 1 until we reach two consecutive weeks of Tier 2 criteria.

Visit oneoahu.org to view the compete reopening strategy.

SAFE TRAVELS HAWAII PROGRAM

To avoid quarantine when traveling to Oahu from outside of the state you must fulfill all the following:



- Create an account and register with the Safe Travels Hawaii Program
- Take a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) at an approved trusted partner location within 72 hours of your flight
- * Complete the mandatory travel and health from in the your Safe Travels Hawaii account (you will receive a QR code for confirmation)
- * Upload your negative COVID-19 test results to your Safe Travels Hawaii account
- * Present your confirmation QR code to airport personnel after landing
- * Pass a temperature scan showing less than 100.4 degrees F.

There are no quarantine requirements when traveling to Oahu from neighbor islands.

Visit hawaiicovid19.com/travel/travel-overview/ for more information on the state's Safe Travel Program.



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