



TOWN & UPCOUNTRY UPDATE

April Update 2020

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE YAMASHITA

Aloha Neighbors,

Thank you to our Healthcare professionals and essential workers who continue to serve our community with their hard work. Your tireless efforts are deeply appreciated by the people you serve every day.

Although the Legislative Session has been on recess since March 16th, the Legislature continues to work to keep the community informed with up-to-date information on how to protect yourself and your family.

This month's Newsletter is dedicated to providing you resources that you can access during this time.

As a reminder, please fill out the 2020 Census, which you can do by mail, by phone or online at <https://2020census.gov/>

My office continues to be a resource for you if you have any questions. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at (808) 586-6330.

Warm regards,

Please assist us in our initiative to 'GO GREEN,' and send us your email address to receive newsletters by email.

Call: (808) 586-6330

Email: repyamashita@capitol.hawaii.gov



Latest Information on COVID-19

Please be aware that multiple proclamations from the State and Maui County are in place to protect individuals from the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states the best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through close contact (within about 6 feet). Remember to practice social distancing and stay at home if you are not an essential worker or going out for essential needs/activities.

For the most up to date information and daily updates go to: <https://hawaiiicovid19.com> or <https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019>

Mayor Michael Victorino has issued a stay at home and work from home order until at least April 30. If you are not considered an essential worker, please remember to only leave your house for essential activities.

Essential Activities include:

- ◆ Maintaining health and safety, like getting medicine or seeing a doctor.
- ◆ Getting food, pet food, and supplies necessary for staying at home.
- ◆ Doing solitary outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, or running.
- ◆ Performing work to operate an essential business or essential government function.
- ◆ Caring for a family member in another household.
- ◆ Caring for elderly, minors, dependents, person with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.

For more information, go to:

[https://www.mauicounty.gov/2370/COVID-19 Coronavirus-Information](https://www.mauicounty.gov/2370/COVID-19%20Coronavirus-Information)



COVID-19 INFO:

CALL 2-1-1
TEXT 877-275-6569
CHAT www.auw211.org
EMAIL info211@auw.org
Daily from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

health.hawaii.gov/covid19

Representative Kyle Yamashita on a COVID-19 conference call with Maui Legislators



Resources to help with COVID-19 impacts



This guide provides resources from the county, state and federal government available to those who have been affected by COVID-19. The U.S. Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which will provide at least \$4 billion in funding to Hawai'i. Extension of deadlines that may impact you at the state and county level have also been announced.

Unemployment Benefits



- ◆ **Have you experienced a job loss or reduced hours?** File for an unemployment claim at <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/#/>
- ◆ The State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations is working to ensure that this process goes smoothly for filers and has upgraded its system to keep up with the high volume of claims.
- ◆ **The Federal CARES Act has expanded the qualification for unemployment benefits**, including self-employed, part-time workers, workers with reduced hours, or those with limited work history. The act also increases the weekly benefit amount and increased the benefit length from 26 weeks to 39 weeks. The State has waived the one-week waiting period to receive benefits for individuals unemployed as a result of COVID-19.
- ◆ More information on unemployment eligibility claims is available at www.labor.hawaii.gov/ui/fag/. For assistance, contact the Maui Claims Office at (808) 984-8400 or Email: dlir.ui.maui@hawaii.gov

Federal stimulus: Direct Payments for Residents

- ◆ The federal CARES Act allows for one-time direct deposit payment to individuals to help them recover from the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The federal government will send you a payment if (1) you meet the eligibility criteria; (2) you fall within the income cap.
- ◆ If you filed a tax return in 2018 or 2019 or you receive Social Security benefits, you **do not need to apply for this benefit. Individuals will receive \$1,200 and joint filers receive \$2,400 plus \$500 per child under 17 years old.**
- ◆ Benefits start to phase out for those with incomes exceeding \$150,000 for married couples, \$75,000 for singles, and \$112,500 for single parents.
- ◆ If you did not provide information for a direct deposit through your tax returns, you will be mailed a rebate check to the address provided on your 2018 or 2019 return, whichever you filed most recently. Payments will be made as fast as possible but could still take a month or longer.
- ◆ Information available at www.irs.gov/coronavirus

Housing Support

Maui Economic Opportunity

Phone: (808) 249-2990 or www.meoinc.org

- ◆ **Hawai'i Emergency Laulima Program:** *The County of Maui is establishing a program to assist residents who have been impacted due to job loss.* The program will provide financial assistance for food, medicine, rent, mortgage, utility payments, phone or internet service, car payments, or insurance. MEO will administer the program.
- ◆ **MEO Rental Assistance Program:** Assistance for individuals and families experiencing financial hardship because a decrease in income or inability to pay rent due to layoff or reduction in hours. Assistance is limited to no more than 6 months or 30 days after returning to work and/or hours being restored to pre-pandemic status.



Catholic Charities Maui

Phone: (808) 873-4673

- ◆ Services include temporary financial assistance, including deposits, rent, and utilities. More information on services are available at www.catholiccharitieshawaii.org/about-us/offices-facilities/maui-community-office/

Federal Homeowners Assistance

- ◆ Under the CARES Act, federally-backed mortgages, including those guaranteed by the Federal Housing Administration, United States Department of Agriculture, Department of Housing and Urban Development: Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Program, Department of Veteran Affairs and Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac allow for:
 - ◆ Mortgage loan payment forbearance for up to one year without fees, penalties, or additional interest by submitting a request to your mortgage holder. Foreclosure relief is also available for those who may be facing foreclosure or being forced to relocate. *The foreclosure eviction moratorium is in effect until May 17.*

Hawaiian Home Lands Loan Deferral

- ◆ Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) direct loans and loans assigned to DHHL are currently being deferred for a period of six months, effective with the April 2020 payment. For information about DHHL loan deferrals, please call (808) 620-9500 or <https://dhhhl.hawaii.gov/covid-19/>

Mortgage Loan Assistance

- ◆ Many of Hawai'i's banks are helping to provide relief through forbearance programs, extensions or deferments. Please contact your bank or lender for more information.



Resources to help with COVID-19 impacts



Business Assistance

Small Business Administration



- ◆ The federal Small Business Administration (SBA) currently offers assistance through the SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program. The CARES Act has expanded the SBA's relief options for small business owners through a Debt Relief Program, Paycheck Protection Program, and Express Bridge Loan Pilot Program.
 - ◆ Additional information is available at: www.sba.gov or for assistance call the Maui office at (808) 875-5990. Email: Library@hisbdc.org

Tax Filing Deadlines Extended

- ◆ **Federal Income Tax** filing and payment deadline is now **July 15**. The extension applies to all individual returns, trusts, and corporations. Taxpayers **will not** have to file any additional forms or call the IRS to qualify. For more information, please go to www.irs.gov/coronavirus
- ◆ **State Income Tax** filing and payment deadline is now **July 20**. The extension applies to all individuals, trusts and estates, corporations, and other non-corporate tax filers including self employment tax. Taxpayers **will not** have to file any additional forms or call the Department of Tax to qualify. For more information, please go to www.tax.hawaii.gov/covid-19/

Fee Waivers for Payments to County of Maui

- ◆ Late fees will be waived for water and sewer bills until at least April 30.
- ◆ The County Departments of Finance and Water Supply will waive credit card fees and e-check fees for online payments related to Solid Waste, Water, and Real Property tax bills until June 30. For more information or further guidance, please go to www.mauicounty.gov.

Driver's Licenses, State IDs, Safety Checks and Vehicle Registration

Driver's Licenses and State IDs

- ◆ 90-day waiver on all expired driver's licenses and State identification cards if expiring between March 23 and May 15. Also applies to Commercial Driver's License (CDL) holders.
- ◆ Extension of the Medical Examiner's Certificate (MEC) and hazardous materials endorsement expiration for motor carriers to May 15.
- ◆ In order to comply with COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, there is a suspension of in-person driver's license transactions and in-vehicle testing until further notice. For more information, please go to www.mauicounty.gov/1328/Motor-Vehicle-Licensing
- ◆ Airport TSA is accepting driver's licenses or State IDs that expired on or after March 1.
- ◆ The REAL ID deadline has been extended to Oct. 1, 2021, which issues a gold star on state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards as a minimum security standard, and prohibits federal agencies including TSA, from accepting licenses and identification cards that do not have the additional verification.



Safety Checks

- ◆ In order to comply with COVID-19 social distancing recommendations, all safety inspection stations are closed for vehicle safety inspections at this time and the annual safety check requirement is suspended until further notice. If your safety check is expired, it will remain valid through May 31. For more information, please go to www.hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/faq/covid-19-safety-check-faqs/

Vehicle Registration

- ◆ In-person vehicle registrations is suspended until further notice, but may still be done online or by mail even though your safety check may have expired.
- ◆ Contact the Maui County Department of Motor Vehicles for further information at www.mauicounty.gov/1328/Motor-Vehicle-Licensing Phone: (808) 270-7363 or Email: maui.dmv@mauicounty.gov

Resources from Federal Government

- ◆ United States Senator Brian Schatz's office has prepared guidance on a variety of subjects included in the federal CARES Act, including direct payments to individuals, unemployment insurance, emergency paid leave, and information for small businesses. Each guide contains contact information for the agencies or organizations best suited to answer questions about the individual programs.
- ◆ To view Senator Schatz's Coronavirus resources, please go to www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus or call his Honolulu office at (808) 523-2061.

**COVID-19
GUIDE**

Information on
how to access
federal resources

Representative Kyle Yamashita

Hawai'i State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 422
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-6330



Do-It-Yourself Fabric Mask

Materials Needed:

- Fabric
- Scissors
- Needle and thread
- Rubber band or elastics
- Ruler

Fabric recommendations:

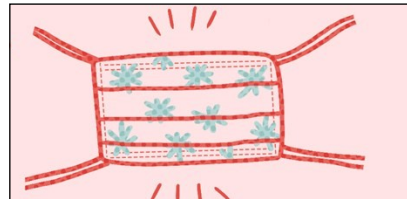
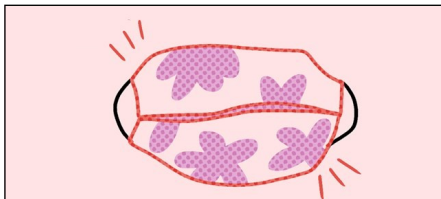
- The ideal fabric is tightly woven 100% cotton
- Try to avoid anything with too much stretch
- In a pinch, if you don't have cotton, you can use pillowcases, tea towels, thick T-shirts or vacuum bags
- Scarves and bandannas also work

No Needle and Thread:

1. Use a square scarf or cut a large square out of a T-shirt (at least 20 inches by 20 inches).
2. Fold two sides of the square in to meet each other in the middle then fold this in half lengthwise. You should be left with a long rectangle with the edges sandwiched inside.
3. Grab two hair ties (or rubber bands) and pull one around each end of the long rectangle, roughly breaking the rectangle into thirds. (It should almost look like a candy wrapper.)
4. Fold each outside third of fabric into the center.
5. Pull the mask on by fitting the hair elastic around ears and making sure the end tails of fabric are against your face so the mask stays put.

With Needle and Thread:

1. Cut two pieces of fabric that are equally sized (measure your face to see how wide/long you need them to be).
2. Take the two layers of your 100% cotton fabric or substitute. If you're working with patterns, face the two sides together (like you're making a sandwich).
3. Place the elastic or ties (*see instructions below) in between the layers and sew them into the corner. For elastics, sew one at each end so it creates a loop on each side. For ties, use one piece at each corner so there are four total.
4. Make three staggered pleats lengthwise on the mask, as if folding a paper fan. Then sew all the way around. This will make a rectangular mask.



See more at: <https://www.today.com/style/how-make-face-mask-fabric-home-t177225>