



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Friday, April 24, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi
FROM: Senate Special Committee on COVID-19
RE: Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 Report

Dear Senate President,

Please see the attached report prepared following the April 22, 2020, Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 meeting with the following:

- Department of the Attorney General
- Department of Transportation – Airports Division
- Hawaii Tourism Authority
- Department of Health
- Hawaii Economic and Community Recovery & Resiliency Plan

Sincerely,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator Michelle N. Kidani

Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Senator Sharon Moriwaki
Senator Kurt Fevella

Attachment

Cc: All Senators

Department of the Attorney General, Department of Transportation – Airports Division, and Hawaii Tourism Authority

Ms. Clare Connors, Attorney General; Mr. Ross Higashi, Deputy Director of Airports; and Mr. Chris Tatum, CEO of HTA, provided the Committee the following update in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Monitoring of Arriving Passengers

- To address the concerns of the Committee, the Department of Transportation (DOT) - Airports Division implemented a more stringent monitoring system of arriving passengers to ensure compliance with the 14-day mandatory quarantine.
 - This includes verification of hotel reservations for visitors and addresses of residents.
 - Cell phone numbers are also verified on site.
 - Once verification is cleared, individuals are allowed to leave the airport.
 - If arriving passengers cannot verify quarantine locations, they are directed to law enforcement.
 - When visitors check-in at hotels, they must sign a form acknowledging the mandatory requirements of the 14-day quarantine.
- Yesterday, including visitors, residents, and crew, there were 400 arrivals.
 - There were 83 visitors. There were no arrivals of visitors on ___ islands.
 - Only one arrival was unaware of the 14-quarantine order.
- So far, there have been 400 thousand calls to verify passengers have maintained 14 quarantine orders.
- There have been referrals to police and arrests.
- Hotels are being more aggressive to ensure visitors following orders.

Department of Transportation & Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) Updates

- DOT has redeployed 30 employees for this contact tracing of arrivals.
 - Twenty administrative division employees are also calling passengers to verify they are continuing to comply with requirements.
 - DOT employees have also been reassigned to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations for unemployment claims processing at the convention center.
- The HTA is continuing to work with hotels on its "Hotels for Heroes" program for health care workers with the Hawaii medical association, Honolulu EMS, Kauai emergency response team, and others.

Travel Booking

- Flights being booked online are increasing because the airlines are anticipating the current proclamations will end date in April.
- The DOT is responsible for monitoring airline and travel booking websites to ensure notices to travels clearly state there is 14-day quarantine.

Fees for Arriving Travelers

- Per the Committee's request, the state is also considering how fees may be collected from airlines or passengers for nonessential travel during the emergency declaration.
 - This requires the navigation of regulations on special funds currently before the Legislature can reconvene.

Further Planning

- Per the Committee's request; The Governor, Attorney General's Office, HIEMA, law enforcement, and other divisions are continuing to discuss the state's authority, capacity and cost to implement certain quarantining and monitoring possibilities, such as designated quarantine sites, ankle bracelets, facial recognition, GPS tracking.
 - The state must also consider an individual's constitutional rights during and following emergency declarations.
 - Current law allows mandatory quarantine because travel poses health and safety concerns.

Department of Health

Dr. Bruce Anderson, Director, & Dr. Sarah Park, State Epidemiologist, provided the Committee the following update in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Contact Tracing Program

- The DOH website includes a flow chart explaining the contact tracing program:
 - <https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/files/2020/04/What-Is-Contact-Tracing-04.13.2020.pdf>
 - The program has four steps:
 1. Identify the case.
 2. Find and notify contacts.
 3. Advise close contacts to quarantine.
 4. Monitor close contacts for symptoms.
- Before the COVID19 quarantine, the number of close contacts was much higher, with some cases having 100s of contacts.
 - Per the Committee's request, DOH will provide the statistics of the contact tracing program, before and since the quarantine went into effect.
- DOH needs additional interviewers to expand the program.
- The program uses volunteers, and while volunteers are helpful, they must possess the ability to conduct interviews and draw the information from the subject.
 - Volunteers must also be familiar with and take confidentiality programs seriously.
 - Volunteers must be vetted and sign confidentiality agreements.
 - The Department of Health (DOH) IT team is working to restrict the data on the disease tracking database to allow greater use of volunteers.
 - The DOH has been using nurses and UH medical/healthcare studies students as volunteers.
- The DOH also works closely with hospitals to track disease.

- Some healthcare facilities do contact tracing and share that information with DOH.
- The DOH is reviewing apps that would facilitate contact tracing.
 - These apps would not replace in-person interviewing.

Re-opening Hawaii

- The DOH listed three critical conditions that must be part of the plan to re-open Hawaii.
 1. Hawaii must have a robust healthcare system to deal with any surge in COVID19 cases.
 2. The contract tracing program must be continued, and any "hot spots" may need to be closed.
 3. Measures to slow the spread must be continued.
 - Includes items such as hygiene regimens and modified social distancing requirements, DOH will also establish uniform procedures and communicate them to Hawaii's health care providers.
- Per the Committee's request, DOH will provide the required resources and regulations to the Legislature.
- Per the Committee's request, DOH, in conjunction with HIEMA, will increase the public outreach efforts on the actions the public will need to take as the State re-opens.
- Per the Committee's request, DOH will submit the plans and needs to build a long-term structure to deal with COVID-19 including.
 - Staffing needs for both ongoing efforts, such as contact tracing, and any surge capacity the Department might need.
 - Public health care system infrastructure needs such as laboratories, data scientists, modernizing facilities, etc.
 - DOH will provide a preliminary budget encompassing these needs.
- Per the Committee's request, DOH will share planning related to the re-opening of our school system.
- Per the Committee's request, there will be an additional meeting with DOH to review mass testing equipment needs.

Hawaii Economic and Community Recovery & Resiliency Plan

Mr. Alan Oshima, Hawaii Economic and Community Recovery and Resiliency Navigator, provided the Committee the following update in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summary of Plan to Date

- Information about the plan is available at www.recoverynavigator.hawaii.gov
- Guiding Principles:
 - Health and safety first;
 - Work in a collaborative, inclusive and transparent manner; and
 - Respect and incorporate Hawaii's values, unique sense of place, and way of life.
- Principles to Inform Decision Making and Process:
 - Have clear priorities and goals for each phase;
 - Engage stakeholders and ensure transparency;

- Use fact-based decision making;
- Leverage national and global best practices;
- Consider federal, state, local and private funding sources; and
- Focus on the need for speed.
- High-Level Plan Phases:
 - Stabilization – with emphasis on health care;
 - Re-opening & Recovery:
 - Gradual re-opening based on public health safeguards;
 - Find paths to recover the economy, support society and balance lives & livelihood; and
 - Resilience – build a resilient economy with strong business and job growth.

Education

- The plan will work with Hawaii educators and add data & information from other states to ensure we educate our students properly and in a safe manner.
- It is unclear if federal funds from the CARES Act can be used to provide additional instruction, whether summer school or additional distance learning, to ensure that students who have missed a quarter of in-class instruction are ready for the next grade.
- It is unclear if federal funds from the CARES Act can be used to adjust classroom layouts next year to accommodate the need for social distancing.

Economic Recovery

- Hawaii has changed its economy in the past from agriculture to tourism; the virus may be the catalyst to create a new economic model for the state.
 - Our economy is interconnected, and we need to look at it as a whole.
- We may need to replace the GDP losses from tourism in stages, i.e., first in part with healthcare, then construction, then agriculture, then other sectors – but this discussion and decisions must be data-driven.
 - Per the Committee's request, Mr. Oshima will provide the economic benchmark data that will be used in planning.
- Teleworking may become a new norm, the state has not been moving in that direction fast enough, but now people see that it is possible so it may increase.
- We have to look at all ways to manage our interconnected economy; for example, can we change the class times at UH to alleviate traffic congestion, which also impacts energy use and our climate?
- Everyone will have different perspectives, and we have to engage everyone in this planning
 - Due to the need for speed, we will use existing groups/organizations to gather ideas rather than starting new organizations or committees.

Tourism

- We may need to look beyond tourism.
 - It may be possible to utilize Hawaii's geographic isolation and market tourism more exclusively to keep tourism's revenues but with fewer tourists.

Agriculture

- We will need to explore the possibilities of the agriculture sector.
 - Feeding Hawaii.
 - Exporting specialty agriculture products.

-end of report-