



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 20, 2020

Dr. Emily Roberson
Department of Health
1250 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Dr. Roberson:

In a letter dated August 6, 2020, members of the Hawaii Senate Committee on COVID-19 requested any documentation you had regarding contact tracing efforts ongoing throughout the state. It has been two weeks as of the writing of this letter, and the Committee has yet to obtain any information from your department.

Once again, the Committee requests documentation outlining the requested information below.

To better clarify the current state of the department's contact tracing operations, the Committee requests a full accounting of active Contact Tracers operating through the Department of Health's divisions and programs. Please include the following information for each Contact Tracer:

- Department;
- Division;
- Position Title;
- Percentage of workload (dedicated to contact tracing);
- Volunteer status (yes or no); and
- Start date (of contact tracing).

Additionally, if there is any other information that would assist the Committee and public to better comprehend a contact tracer's relationship or employment status with the department, please include those in your response.

State Senate, State Capitol
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Given the recent surge in cases and threat that poses in overrunning your tracing efforts, the Committee also requests you provide information on your current division staff and include the following information for each tracer:

- Scope of work;
- Number of cases;
- Rates of completion;
- Rates of new cases; and
- Monthly overtime data for the period of March to present.

Also, we ask you to provide the metrics on what you believe to be manageable caseload numbers per employee so that the Committee better understand what sufficient staffing would look like, under current infection rates.

Per our August 6, 2020 discussion, the Committee requests that you provide all pertinent information regarding the department's plans to scale up the contact tracing program. The Committee is particularly concerned with the slow rate of hire for much-needed contact tracers. In that regard, please provide specific details on all barriers, including resources, hindering the department's ability to bring on board the additional contact tracers at a rate greater than 20 at a time. Please also provide us with your plan for recruiting, orienting, and assigning work to the over 400 contact tracers trained by the UH. What is the status of the recruitment of the 400 trainees?

The Committee asks that as part of these discussions you identify and communicate the following components of a plan to utilize the space, including:

- Space needed based on the number of staff /volunteers to be trained and hired;
- A phased timeline to accommodate the onboarding of additional contact tracers;
- Whether demobilized equipment from the UI volunteer effort is still available to be utilized; and
- How many National Guard personnel will be required.

Our discussion also highlighted the possible need to expand related data operations within the department. For this reason, the Committee requests that you produce and provide personnel requirements that would allow for the timely re-deployment of state workers, should the need arise.

Finally, at the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 meeting held on May 4, 2020, Dr. Park presented the DOH Contact Tracing App ("Aloha Safe"), which was being developed to increase the efficiency and timeliness of contacting individuals in close contact with COVID-infected individuals. It was to be up and running in a few weeks following that meeting. With the surge and understaffed Disease Investigation Branch, "Aloha Safe" is needed more than ever. Please provide the Committee with an update, and specifically:

- The functions of the Aloha Safe app—what data will it be collecting and using in contact tracing;
- How are individuals being asked to download and use Aloha Safe;
- Has it been tested with investigators, contact tracers, community members, and, if so, what have been the results;
- When will Aloha Safe be operational; and
- Is DOT/HTA using Aloha Safe with incoming travelers?

The Committee requests that you provide documentation of the requested information by **4:00 p.m., Thursday, August 27, 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