



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 30, 2020

Dr. Libby Char, Director
Department of Health
1250 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Director Char:

RE: Contact Tracing and Data Dashboard

Our committee first wants to commend the progress shown in the Department of Health's contact tracing operations headed by Dr. Emily Roberson. There is a striking difference between what we first witnessed at the Department of Health (DOH), what we saw in our first visit to the Convention Center, and this last visit with Dr. Roberson.

With that said, there are a few remaining gaps we would like to see filled in terms of public information. We have made previous requests that the metrics required in the department's previous CDC grant be made available publicly. We believe these metrics to be more precise indicators of the state's response effectiveness than what is currently available. These metrics include:

1. The turnaround time from test to result;
2. The lag from a positive result to first case investigation contact; and
3. The lag from case investigation contact to contact tracing.

We assume that these metrics are already being collected and reported regularly as part of the grant. As such, we ask that they also be made available through the department's data dashboard.

Additionally, during our visit, Dr. Roberson discussed some of the indicators she collects and reports to track the contract tracing program's efficiency and effectiveness. We ask that these indicators also be included in the department's data dashboard. Through the sharing of these indicators, the public can regularly monitor and better assess the success of these programs.

As part of the department's contact tracing operations, we ask that you also provide this committee with regular updates of the aggregate count of full-time contact tracers and investigators, to be reported separately. Dr. Roberson indicated that she already breaks those counts out by DOH Disease Investigation Branch employees, other DOH employees, and employees outside of the department, i.e., the National

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Guard and RCUH. We believe those breakouts would also be beneficial for our committee to assess the future needs of the department as these operations continue to be necessary. As such, we ask that they also be included.

Finally, both Major General Hara and Dr. Roberson indicated that planning is underway for the continuation of contact tracing operations after December 31, 2020, when the CARES Act funding concludes. We ask that you keep us apprised of these plans as things develop. The legislative session is rapidly approaching, and we are committed to working with you to ensure that these critical operations continue.

The committee requests that you provide documentation of the requested information by **4:00 pm, Wednesday, November 4, 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
MG Kenneth Hara
Dr. Emily Roberson
Dr. Eddie Mersereau