



The Senate

STATECAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 1, 2020

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Governor Ige:

RE: Traveler Arrival Testing

With the impending modifications to the 14-day travel quarantine requirements and the reopening of Hawai'i to larger numbers of transpacific travelers, we respectfully request that traveler arrival testing be implemented at all Hawai'i airports receiving direct flights. We are concerned that the 72-hr pre-test and on-arrival temperature screening will not provide adequate vetting of infected travelers and will catch less than 60% of travelers to our islands. In recent Civil Beat articles, "[Hawaii Has A Plan To Restart Tourism Safely. Will It Work?](#)" and "[Why We Should Set The Bar High On Testing Visitors](#)," Dr. Jonathan Dworkin, Queen's Health System, and Dr. Darragh O'Carroll, Kuakini Medical Center agree that without additional arrival testing we will be putting our residents and visitors at-risk. They believe if we depend solely on a 72-hr pre-test, that even if a resident caught this virus three days prior to the test, it has almost 100% chance of being a false negative.

Jump starting our economy by reopening our State to travelers from all over the world, especially states and countries that are considered hotspots by the medical community, must be balanced with prudent and cautious prevention and mitigation protocols. The current plan will cause a surge of infected residents and visitors by Thanksgiving, which forces us to return to economically and morally bankrupt lockdowns.

Our request is to shore up our State's plan for reopening by keeping a shorter six-day quarantine and releasing the traveler after a second negative test is performed on day six. As an alternative, we ask that the administration work with the Airlines to create a process for separating voluntary pre-tested travelers and non-pre-tested travelers either into separate cabins or onto separate flights. Repeat testing of travelers, or increased separation, will go a long way in ensuring that we minimize the unintentional spread of the virus, and allow us to reopen local businesses on O'ahu, reopen our schools gradually, and prevent depletion of our already stretched medical and PPE resources.

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