



October 7, 2020

**STATE URGED TO GUARANTEE SAFETY MEASURES BEFORE ALLOWING  
PASSENGERS TO BYPASS QUARANTINE**

The Honolulu City Council today unanimously approved Resolution 20-246, urging the State once again to implement important measures to ensure the safe reopening of Hawai'i to transpacific travel and tourism.

Council Chair Emeritus Ron Menor, who introduced Resolution 20-246, has long been advocating for more stringent measures with letters to state leaders and previous resolutions including Resolution 20-164, FD1, which the Council adopted on July 7, urging Governor David Ige to implement second, follow-up testing of incoming travelers.

*"It's vital for the entire State of Hawai'i that we have the most stringent safety protocols already in place before we reopen our doors to transpacific travelers," said Chair Emeritus Menor. "I've been urging the Governor for months to seriously explore utilizing rapid testing technology which can deliver results within minutes to do follow-up testing of incoming travelers within seven days of the initial tests, as recommended by our medical experts."*

However, the State intends to begin its pre-travel single testing protocol next week, on October 15, which will let passengers who can prove they've taken a certified COVID-19 test 72 hours before arrival and tested negative to avoid the 14-day quarantine.

Resolution 20-246 urges the reopening of transpacific travel only if the State is confident the following safety requirements can be met:

- The vast majority of incoming passengers can acquire accurate pre-travel COVID-19 tests, the results of which can be verified;
- The spread of COVID-19 is under control in Hawai'i and any location from which tourists' trips to Hawai'i will originate;
- A system of follow-up diagnostic viral testing of incoming travelers after arrival to confirm negative test results is implemented at the earliest practicable date when appropriate and effective testing technology becomes widely available;
- An adequate number of contract tracers is in place to track any new outbreaks among incoming travelers and persons with whom they have come into contact;
- The 14-day quarantine enforcement system is effective to handle the possible large numbers of travelers who have not taken the pre-travel tests or are awaiting their test results;
- The State and City have systems in place to effectively monitor and enforce compliance with the Mayor's and the Governor's public health directives, such as the wearing of face coverings and social distancing for both residents and visitors;

- Adequate protocols are in place to protect the health and safety of hotel employees and other tourism industry workers; and
- Information about the State’s pre-boarding and quarantine requirements is well publicized to alert those with plans to travel to Hawai‘i.

***Chair Emeritus Menor added, “If all of the safety measures are not in place by October 15, then the Governor should delay reopening transpacific travel until the necessary infrastructure to protect the public’s health can be fully developed.”***

For more information on this resolution or the Honolulu City Council, please go to the following web sites: <http://www.honolulu-citycouncil.com> or <http://www.honolulu.gov/council>

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