



October 7, 2020

**STATE URGED TO IMPLEMENT SECOND COVID TEST OR POSTPONE
ITS PRE-TRAVEL TESTING REOPENING**

The Honolulu City Council today unanimously approved Resolution 20-253, which urges the Governor to adopt and implement a two or more test system for COVID-19 for all incoming passengers who intend to bypass Hawaii's 14-day quarantine.

Council Vice Chair Tommy Waters, who introduced Resolution 20-253, believes the pre-travel testing protocol announced by Governor David Ige is still too risky and could endanger the health and safety of our islands.

"There's too much to lose and we definitely cannot afford a third shutdown, which would be devastating," said Vice Chair Waters. "I'm worried that, under the current plan, people are going to slip through the cracks, meaning contagious people getting off planes and infecting local people. A two-test system would cut down that potential significantly."

Dr. Darragh O'Carroll, a board certified emergency medicine physician, who strongly supports Resolution 20-253, says the State has failed to evolve with the evolving information about the coronavirus.

"Saying one test is going to catch about 80% is just a fallacy, like saying masks don't work," said Dr. O'Carroll. "Infectious disease experts know that it takes three to four days for the virus to get to levels that can be detected, which means that any test during those first three days, even the deep tickle your brain test, is useless."

This is why Vice Chair Waters is emphasizing the need for a second test to ensure nothing is taken for granted so that the State of Hawai'i can safely reopen its doors and begin recovering its economy.

However, the State has already been publicizing that beginning October 15, passengers who successfully complete a pre-travel test will not be subject to Hawaii's 14-day quarantine program. Those passengers must prove their tests were processed by certified laboratories, approved by the government.

Resolution 20-253 also urges the State to postpone its reopening to transpacific travel on October 15 until an adequate two or more test system, in conjunction with a medically appropriate quarantine period, can be developed and implemented.

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

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