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MEMORANDUM

To: All Councilmembers

From: Chair Ikaika Anderson 

Date: May 5, 2020

RE: Select Committee on Economic Assistance and Revitalization

As the City and County of Honolulu emerges from the initial wave of the present COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary for us to consider the vital steps to safely reopen our communities across O'ahu in the wake of the global public health emergency and statewide shutdown. For that reason, I've established the Council Select Committee on Economic Assistance and Revitalization, to be chaired by Councilmember Tommy Waters. Council Vice Chair Ann Kobayashi will serve as the select committee's vice chair, and Councilmembers Brandon Elefante, Carol Fukunaga, Joey Manahan, and Ron Menor will comprise the balance of its members.

This select committee will be tasked with developing recommendations regarding the best and most advantageous public use of the approximately \$380 million in federal funding received by the City per the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020. The CARES funds are to be used for necessary expenditures incurred during the period of March 1 – December 30, 2020 due to the present public health emergency prompted by the COVID pandemic, as well as other monies allocated to mitigate the pandemic's impact.

Further, this committee will provide an opportunity for small business owners and those niche industries to participate in the formulation and guidance of City policies and practices as we address the statewide economic downturn. It is the Council's intent to provide economic assistance and encourage revitalization, under the Council's direct oversight and jurisdiction, to help individuals and businesses most adversely affected by the statewide coronavirus-related shutdown.

Finally, with this select committee, we can assert the Council's role to promote a sustainable revitalization of our local economy. We must look at how City government both operates and interacts with its citizens and businesses, and implement the necessary changes to maintain and improve its efficiency, particularly in light of current and evolving public health protocols which we need to uphold and lead by example.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your time and dedication on this matter. My door is always open to you. I welcome and look forward to your remarks and recommendations.

Cc: Office of Council Services
Office of the City Clerk
Managing Director