



## The Senate

STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Thursday, May 28, 2020

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi  
FROM: Senate Special Committee on COVID-19  
RE: Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 Report

Dear Senate President,

Please see the attached report prepared following the May 28, 2020, Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 meeting with the following:

Hawaii Executive Collaborative

- Mr. Paul Yonamine
- Mr. Duane Kurisu
- Ms. Lori Teranishi

Sincerely,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole  
Senator Michelle N. Kidani

Senator Donna Mercado Kim  
Senator Sharon Moriwaki  
Senator Kurt Fevella

Attachment

Cc: All Senators

## **Hawaii Executive Collaborative (HEC)**

The Hawaii Executive Collaborative represented by Mr. Paul Yonamine and Mr. Duane Kurisu provided the Committee the following update.

### **Travel Corridor Pilot**

- The HEC believes that a time-tested, incremental approach to reopening our State's tourism should be the preferred method.
- We should seek to work in conjunction with nations and states that are experiencing similar low infection numbers to that of Hawaii.
  - The HEC recommended Japan as the first pilot.
- The HEC has begun exploratory discussions with the Economic Advisor in Japan, as well as the CEO of Haneda Airport, around the potential for a pilot program to reopen Hawaii to global travel.
- Japan was identified as an ideal travel corridor partner for the following reasons:
  - The nation-wide success of flattening their infection rates curve;
  - Proven history of respect for the State of Hawaii and its culture;
  - Regular use of masks as a pre-existing social norm;
  - Likelihood of high compliance with additional regulations, and protocols;
  - Largest total number of visitors for any foreign nation to the State; and
  - 40% higher spending per visitor compared to other visitor groups.
- It was agreed that the success of this pilot program would be a good bellwether for opening the rest of the tourism industry.

### **Needed Components**

- It would be necessary to implement stringent health and safety systems within our State, as well as partner nations and states.
  - Implementation of effective systems of virus identification and stronger contact tracing in partnered airports.
- Accountability expectations should the partnership result in increased infection rates in either nation or State.
- This would make possible a reciprocal agreement between Hawaii and its partners to allow quarantine free travel for visitors adhering to additional regulations and protocols.
- The HEC has set a target date of July 1 to initiate an agreement.

### **Next Steps**

- The HEC is asking for the creation of a public-private task force to create a coordinated effort for reopening, starting with this pilot program.
  - An official status would also be necessary to negotiate on behalf of the State of Hawaii.
- Per the Committee's request, Mr. Yonamine agreed to provide the Committee a template of the program for our discussions with the impacted departments.

- Per the Committee's request, Mr. Yonamine agreed to provide the Committee with key individuals he believes would be most beneficial to this work so the Committee can schedule future meetings and determine timelines.
- Mr. Yonamine agreed to investigate building blocks for the template and summarize those building blocks and what is happening in other travel bubbles or corridors.