



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

April 30, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair, Senate Special Committee on COVID-19
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Dela Cruz and Members of Senate Special Committee on COVID-19:

As requested at the April 28, 2020 informational briefing, regarding the re-opening of dine-in restaurants, I am providing a link to the most current guideline available which was compiled by the National Restaurant Association based on FDA, USDA, and CDC guidance.

http://www.afdo.org/resources/documents/covid19/nra_reopen_guidance.pdf

We have been informed by our food safety partners at the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO) that the official guidance from the FDA will be coming out within the week.

We believe the NRA did a good job of putting this together on very short notice as some States were already planning to allow dine-in facilities to re-open and the NRA wanted to make sure that their members had some guidance to protect public health. Please keep in mind that guidance documents released are constantly changing as we learn more about COVID-19. Because this is a novel pathogen, control measures are constantly undergoing review and change as we get more information from research, epidemiological data, public/social expectations and our experience in dealing with the issues. To date there has been no evidence of viral transmission through our food supply.

The DOH does not, at this time, plan to create a task force or committee to review these guidelines. However, as part of the Governor's Economic and Community Recovery & Resiliency plan efforts, the Department could participate in developing initiatives and guidance in this and other health-related areas. We believe the guidance provided by FDA, CDC, USDA and other Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) is timely and appropriate and could be utilized as part of the planning effort.

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The DOH will continue to work in conjunction with the Governor's Office, the counties and representatives from the local restaurant industry to ensure the safety of both patrons and employees.

If you have any questions regarding this guidance, please contact Dr. Keith Kawaoka, Deputy Director for Environmental Health at 586-4424 or by email at keith.kawaoka@doh.hawaii.gov

Sincerely,



Bruce S. Anderson, Ph.D.
Director of Health