



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

May 18, 2020

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 208  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 203  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Michelle N. Kidani  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 228  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 218  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Sharon Moriwaki  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 223  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Kurt Fevella  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 217  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Exemption for Hawai'i High School Graduation Ceremonies

Dear Senators:

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and based on guidance from local, state and national officials, the Hawai'i Department of Education will see roughly 11,000 graduating seniors of the Class of 2020. The Department is proud of the accomplishments of the senior class in the face of tremendous challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Department decided to forgo the traditional commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2020 to adhere to the safer-at-home and social distancing guidance. Schools planned for alternate celebrations to best honor graduating seniors at the respective high schools in light of the standing executive orders mandating safer-at-home at both the State and County levels and CDC guidance. Tremendous amounts of time and effort went into planning these special events.

The Department has collaborated with the County police departments to address traffic issues during these alternate celebrations. The first scheduled graduation ceremony was held this past Friday, May 15, 2020, for James Campbell High School, where 687 seniors participated.

Senate Special Committee on COVID-19  
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Please support our schools as they proceed with their graduation ceremonies across the State.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Y. Ige". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

David Y. Ige  
Governor, State of Hawai'i