



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 13, 2020

Mr. Leslie H. Kondo, State Auditor
Office of the Auditor
Kekuanao‘a Building
465 S. King Street, Rm. 500
Honolulu, HI 96813-2917

Dear Mr. Kondo:

The Senate's Special Committee on COVID-19 has been engaged in efforts over the last five months to ensure that the State of Hawaii was appropriately prepared, both through planning and resources, to address the looming challenges that we would undoubtedly face due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Many of these issues are now coming to a head, and the time-sensitive nature of these matters makes it necessary for our committee to reach out to you for assistance at this time.

There are two primary areas of focus, where our committee believes your particular services could benefit the public immensely. The committee asks that you aid our efforts by producing informational reports on the following topics.

First, the committee asks that you look into and report on the contract tracing programs being employed both locally and nationally. Our hope is that through this information, our committee, as well as the public at large, will have a better understanding of how these programs work and how they must be structured to best address the rapidly increasing rates of infection within our state.

Secondly, with the state's attempts to reopen schools, we ask that you research and report on the current protocols employed by the state's Department of Education in regards to COVID-19. With the persistent reports of inconsistent processes and procedures being rolled out across the state, our committee believes that a report on what is, in fact, in place at the state level, will be invaluable in our ability to determine whether or not the state is appropriately prepared to open schools.

It is our committee's belief that in times like these, we all must stand together and do what is necessary to ensure the health and safety of the public. It is in that vein that we make this request for support. The committee appreciates your attention to this matter.

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Please email your response to all Senate Special Committee COVID-19 members. Should you have any questions, please contact Duncan Osorio at 586-6800 or via email at d.osorio@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Sincerely,

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole
Senator Michelle N. Kidani
Senator Donna Mercado Kim
Senator Sharon Moriwaki
Senator Kurt Fevella

Cc: Senate President
Dr. Bruce Anderson
Superintendent Christina Kishimoto