SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING ALL EXECUTIVE BRANCH DEPARTMENTS AND ATTACHED AGENCIES TO INFORM THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHEN IMPLEMENTING THEIR PLANS AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is implementing its pandemic preparedness and response plans and working on multiple fronts, including providing specific guidance on measures to prepare communities to respond to local spread of the virus that causes COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, there is an abundance of pandemic guidance developed in anticipation of an influenza pandemic that is being adapted for a potential COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention pandemic planning considerations include:

(1) Disease severity in the community where a business is located;

(2) Impact of disease on employees that are vulnerable and may be at higher risk for COVID-19 adverse health complications, including informing employees that some people may be at higher risk for severe illness, such as older adults and those with chronic medical conditions;

(3) Preparing for possible increased numbers of employee absences due to illness in employees and their family members and dismissals of early childhood programs and
K-12 schools due to high levels of absenteeism or illness;

(4) Encouraging employers with more than one business location to provide local managers with the authority to take appropriate actions outlined in their business infectious disease outbreak response plan based on the condition in each locality;

(5) Coordinating with state and local health officials for all businesses so that timely and accurate information can guide appropriate responses in each location where their operations reside;

(6) Encouraging all employers to be ready to implement strategies to protect their workforce from COVID-19, while ensuring continuity of operations, including encouraging sick employees to stay home, the practice of respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene, and the routine cleaning of commonly used areas;

(7) Identifying possible work-related exposure and health risks to employees;

(8) Reviewing human resources policies to make sure that policies and practices are consistent with public health recommendations and existing state and federal workplace laws;

(9) Exploring whether policies and practices can be established to increase the physical distance among employees and between employees and others in the workplace, if state and local health authorities recommend the use of social distancing strategies, including telecommuting and teleconferencing;

(10) Encouraging businesses to identify essential business functions, essential jobs or roles, and critical elements within supply chains required to maintain business operations;
(11) Requesting businesses to set up authorities, triggers, and procedures for activating and terminating a business' infectious disease outbreak response plan, altering business operations, and transferring business knowledge to key employees;

(12) Urging businesses to plan to minimize exposure between employees and between employees and the public, if public health officials call for social distancing;

(13) Asking businesses to establish a process to communicate information to employees and business partners on a business' infectious disease outbreak response plan and the latest COVID-19 information;

(14) Whether early childhood programs and K-12 schools should be dismissed, particularly if COVID-19 worsens;

(15) How local conditions will influence the decisions that public health officials make regarding community-level strategies;

(16) Canceling non-essential business travel to additional countries per travel guidance by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(17) Travel restrictions enacted by other countries that may limit the ability of employees to return home if they become sick while on travel status;

(18) Canceling large work-related meetings or events; and

(19) Engaging state and local health departments to confirm channels of communication and methods for dissemination of local outbreak information; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of Representatives concurring, that all executive branch departments and attached agencies are requested to inform the
Senate and House of Representatives when implementing their plans and procedures relating to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state departments and attached agencies are requested to inform the President of the Senate and members of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives and members of the House of Representatives when adjusting or deviating from normal operating procedures, such as reduced hours, telecommuting, or cancellation of public meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all state departments and attached agencies are requested to communicate all new procedures being implemented and include the start and end dates of the new procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and all executive branch departments and attached agencies.