
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A COLOR-CODED ADVISORY SYSTEM TO
ADDRESS THE RAPIDLY CHANGING THREAT OF COVID-19.

1 WHEREAS, considering the recent developments regarding
2 COVID-19, or novel coronavirus, which causes a mild to severe
3 respiratory illness, and the increasing danger it poses to our
4 public; and

5
6 WHEREAS, the government of the State of Hawaii has a duty
7 to inform and protect its citizens; and

8
9 WHEREAS, constituents have many questions based on a lack
10 of information, and it is imperative to not only promote healthy
11 hygiene and social distancing, but to also take steps to assure
12 the public clearly understands the level of threat our
13 communities face; and

14
15 WHEREAS, the President of the United States has announced a
16 travel ban on persons arriving from Europe; and

17
18 WHEREAS, countries around the world are implementing
19 procedures to combat and attempt to control the threat and
20 spread of COVID-19. For example, Saudi Arabia is restricting
21 travel to holy sites; South Korea is implementing quarantines
22 enforced by criminal charge; Northern Italy is imposing army-
23 guarded lockdowns of its towns, schools, and universities; China
24 has implemented lockdowns of its cities, travel, and other
25 public venues; Japan has closed its schools; France has
26 requested its citizens to abandon the traditional "bise"
27 greeting and banned public gatherings of five thousand people or
28 more; Iran has suspended its parliament; and Switzerland has
29 banned gatherings of more than one thousand people; and
30



1 WHEREAS, counties and states across our nation are calling
2 for, or have already declared states of emergency, with the
3 states of California, Florida, and Washington having already
4 declared a state of emergency; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Mayors of Kauai, Maui, and Honolulu have already
7 issued separate proclamations of emergency to combat the threat
8 of COVID-19; and
9

10 WHEREAS, government agencies, such as the Department of
11 Defense and other states, such as Washington, have already
12 implemented tiered response protocols; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Hawaii state government needs to present a
15 unified, cohesive response in the form of a singular,
16 universally applicable tiered response protocol that informs the
17 public and state agencies alike of both the current threat level
18 posed by COVID-19 and the government's according response; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has previously
21 implemented a color-coded advisory system used to communicate
22 risk levels for previous threats to the public's health and
23 welfare that is easily understood by and familiar to the public;
24 and
25

26 WHEREAS, this previously used advisory system requires
27 clear details in the context of the current situation to be
28 effective; and
29

30 WHEREAS, the risk posed by COVID-19 can rapidly change,
31 necessitating a system that can be quickly adjusted to reflect
32 the level of risk posed by COVID-19 as well as the appropriate
33 responses to the various risk levels; and
34

35 WHEREAS, this previously used system provides a means for
36 the government to quickly and easily inform the public of
37 updates to the situation and to plan appropriately in the event
38 of changing risk levels; now, therefore,
39

40 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
41 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
42 Representatives concurring, that the Governor is urged to create



1 a color-coded advisory system consistent with the system
2 previously developed and used by the Department of Homeland
3 Security to address the rapidly changing threat of COVID-19; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor, Department of
6 Health, and HIEMA are requested to coordinate with the
7 appropriate government agencies to create a single, unified
8 system that will inform the public and agencies alike of the
9 standing threat level and according government restrictions,
10 protocols and policies; and
11

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the risk advisory levels could
13 be denoted as follows:
14

- 15 (1) Red - Severe, indicating widespread community
16 transmission, spread is ongoing, the majority of the
17 islands in the State are involved, and recommended
18 actions to be taken include:
19
20 (A) Continue all measures from the prior risk level;
21
22 (B) Consider restriction of movement, including
23 quarantines, isolations, cancelation of public
24 gatherings, avoiding congregate settings, and
25 practicing social distancing;
26
27 (C) Access to public installations are limited;
28
29 (D) Cancel community activities; and
30
31 (E) Cancel all non-essential travel; and
32
33 (2) Orange - Substantial, indicating sustained community
34 transmission, spread is ongoing, and recommended
35 actions to be taken include:
36
37 (A) Continue all measures from previous risk level;
38
39 (B) Declare Public Health Emergency;
40
41 (C) Limit access to some state/public installations;
42



- 1 (D) Cancel large public gatherings and community
- 2 activities; and
- 3
- 4 (E) Limit travel; and
- 5
- 6 (3) Yellow - Moderate, indicating increased community
- 7 transmission, multiple people in multiple locations
- 8 have been infected, spread is contained, and
- 9 recommended actions to be taken include:
- 10
- 11 (A) Continue all measures from the previous level;
- 12
- 13 (B) Restrict travel in afflicted communities and
- 14 advise civilians of the risk;
- 15
- 16 (C) Limit access to specific installations; and
- 17
- 18 (D) Strongly advise against large public gatherings;
- 19 and
- 20
- 21 (4) Blue - Limited, indicating community transmission
- 22 beginning, sporadic and limited instances of
- 23 infection, and recommended actions to be taken
- 24 include:
- 25
- 26 (A) Re-emphasize health and hygiene protocols;
- 27
- 28 (B) Limit access to areas with direct connection to
- 29 infected individuals;
- 30
- 31 (C) Encourage cancelation of large public gatherings
- 32 and communities' activities; and
- 33
- 34 (D) Warn of risks of travel; and
- 35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each level would include clear
 37 instructions regarding the anticipated action of the government,
 38 for example, at the Red risk level citizens can expect the
 39 government and state facilities, including schools, will be shut
 40 down; and

41



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this advisory system would also
2 have clear requirements, which would effectuate a change of risk
3 levels, such as the number of COVID-19 cases in the State; and
4

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each level would include
6 recommended responses and actions to be taken by the public; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, all
10 Executive Branch Directors, Chief Justice, and Mayors of each
11 county.
12

