



RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO REINSTATE PRE-TRAVEL COVID-19 TESTING FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS TO HAWAII REGARDLESS OF THEIR VACCINATION STATUS.

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor David Ige ("Governor") issued a proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency in the State of Hawai'i ("State") due to the COVID-19 outbreak and invoking his authority under the Hawaii Emergency Management Act, Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Governor issued a Second Supplementary Proclamation Relating to the COVID-19 Emergency ("Proclamation") requiring, subject to limited exceptions, all persons entering the State to be subject to a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine; and

WHEREAS, on September 22, 2020, the Governor issued a Thirteenth Proclamation providing in part that the requirement for travelers to undergo mandatory self-quarantine will be waived if travelers can provide proof of a negative polymerase chain reaction ("PCR") test for COVID-19 taken within 72 hours of their departure for Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2021, the Governor issued an Eighteenth Proclamation providing in part that travelers to Hawai'i who have completed a State Department of Health-approved COVID-19 vaccination regimen are excepted from the self-quarantine requirement; and

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2021, the Governor issued a Twenty-First Proclamation providing in part that travelers to Hawai'i who have completed a State Department of Health-approved COVID-19 vaccination regimen are excepted from pre-travel testing, as well as self-quarantine requirements; and

WHEREAS, in June 2021, the highly contagious Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus began to circulate and resulted in spiking case counts around the world, in the United States, and in the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), thereby reversing what had been a steady decline in COVID-19 case counts since the commencement of COVID-19 vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, within two short months, the Delta variant has become by far the most prevalent COVID-19 variant in the State and the City; and



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WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") has found that the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, but are not 100 percent effective, and that some fully vaccinated people will become infected; and

WHEREAS, the CDC has also found that some fully vaccinated persons who are infected with the Delta variant may experience illness and that fully vaccinated persons that are symptomatic may be able to spread the virus to others, albeit for a shorter time period; and

WHEREAS, each COVID-19-positive traveler entering the State poses an increased risk to public health due to the possibility for exponential local spread of the virus; and

WHEREAS, PCR tests, which are a type of nucleic acid amplification test ("NAAT"), are able to detect minute amounts of COVID-19 and are considered the gold standard of COVID-19 tests; and

WHEREAS, pre-departure testing that requires a negative test result prior to departure protects airline passengers, airline employees, and Hawai'i residents by reducing the number of potentially infected people allowed to arrive in Hawai'i on incoming flights; and

WHEREAS, in November 2020, a surveillance study of the Safe Travels Hawaii pre-travel testing program indicated that very few visitors and returning residents who received a pre-travel negative PCR test result subsequently tested positive for COVID-19 after arrival in Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, as Hawai'i faces its largest COVID-19 case counts and highest levels of hospitalizations since the beginning of the pandemic, it is critical that virus transmission be reduced as quickly and as much as possible and that travelers to the State are free of COVID-19; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Governor is urged to reinstate pre-travel COVID-19 testing for domestic and international travelers to Hawai'i, regardless of their vaccination status; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 21-193

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor, and the Managing Director.

INTRODUCED BY:

Esther Kia'ania
Tony Watson

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

AUG 27 2021

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 21-193

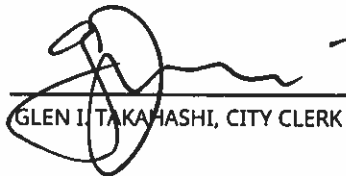
Introduced: 08/27/21 By: ESTHER KIA'ĀINA
TOMMY WATERS Committee: TRANSPORTATION.
SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH
(TSH)

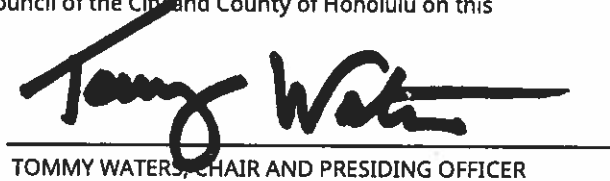
Title: URGING THE GOVERNOR TO REINSTATE PRE-TRAVEL COVID-19 TESTING FOR DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS TO HAWAII REGARDLESS OF THEIR VACCINATION STATUS.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

08/27/21	INTRO	Introduced.
09/02/21	TSH	Reported out for adoption.
		CR-267
		4 AYES: CORDERO, ELEFANTE, KIA'ĀINA, TULBA
09/08/21	CCL	Committee report and Resolution were adopted.
		9 AYES: CORDERO, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KIA'ĀINA, SAY, TSUNEYOSHI, TULBA, TUPOLA, WATERS

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.


GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK


TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER