



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION AND THE STATE OF HAWAII TO IMPLEMENT A COVID-19 HEALTH CARD FOR ESTABLISHMENTS AT HIGHER RISK OF TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19.

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

WHEREAS, on the same day, then-Mayor Kirk Caldwell ("Mayor Caldwell") also issued a proclamation pursuant to the Emergency Management Act declaring the existence of a state of emergency in the City and County of Honolulu ("City") due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2020, when the COVID-19 case counts in the City increased to a level that posed a risk to the healthcare system, Mayor Caldwell issued a "Stay-at-Home/Work-from-Home Order," which was effective, as amended, until the increases were reduced and stabilized; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2020, Mayor Caldwell issued a science-based and medically-informed "Recovery Framework," which provided clear direction to government, businesses, and the general public based on a graduated, four-tiered plan for reducing the spread of COVID-19 in the City based on the level of COVID-19 threat determined by the Mayor (Tier 1 being the highest threat of over 100 cases as the seven-day average and Tier 4, the lowest of fewer than 20 cases as the seven-day average); and

WHEREAS, in May 2021, Mayor Rick Blangiardi issued several orders amending the original Tier System to tie the recovery tiers to vaccination rates rather than case counts in part due to increased vaccination rates and a lack of hospitalization cases; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, the City Administration announced "Honolulu's Post COVID-19 Vaccine Framework," which amended the Tier System to account for vaccination rates and allowed the City to move into Tier 4, increasing the permitted social gathering sizes and exempting restaurants and bars from six-foot distance requirements if they required proof of vaccination or a negative test; and

WHEREAS, in June 2021, the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus began to spread across the United States mainland and then through Hawai'i; and



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WHEREAS, on July 8, 2021, the City Administration announced that the City would move into Tier 5, further increasing allowable gathering sizes and capacities within restaurants and bars; and

WHEREAS, the first death of a fully vaccinated person in Hawai'i was reported on July 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, with the increased spread of COVID-19 due to the advent of the Delta variant, the seven-day average in new COVID-19 cases for the City has increased from 192 on July 30, 2021 to 449 on August 22, 2021, representing an over 133 percent increase; and

WHEREAS, on August 17, 2021, the Queen's Health Systems announced that its intensive care unit beds were completely full, and on August 21, 2021, the Queen's Medical Center – West O'ahu declared a "disaster" as the number of COVID-19 patients seeking assistance overwhelmed the Medical Center's capacity; and

WHEREAS, on August 23, 2021, Mayor Blangiardi announced the suspension of large gatherings in recognition of increasing hospitalizations impacting the overall healthcare system on O'ahu; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2021, it was reported that the City morgue began using, for the first time, one of the three overflow refrigeration units originally purchased in 2020 to prepare for the possibility of a spike in COVID-19 deaths; and

WHEREAS, many medical professionals now agree that "herd immunity" will not be reached at a 70 percent vaccination rate due to the increased contagiousness and severity of the Delta variant, and some specialists believe that up to 95 percent of the population now may need to be vaccinated to reach herd immunity and protect the public; and

WHEREAS, many medical professionals have argued for another stay-at-home order to immediately reduce stress on the healthcare system, and Governor Ige has indicated as recently as August 24, 2021 that a "statewide shutdown" is a last resort possibility; and

WHEREAS, jurisdictions around the world and within the United States have begun implementing a "Health Pass," also called a "Green Pass," "SMART Health Card," and other similar names with varying requirements for certain establishments to require vaccination or negative COVID-19 tests to access business services, as a way to minimize spread of the virus, decrease exposure to higher viral loads, encourage vaccinations, and prevent another complete shutdown; and



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WHEREAS, New York City, San Francisco, and New Orleans have each implemented a mandatory proof of "Health Card" requirement through the executive orders of their mayors or authorized city health officers; and

WHEREAS, it has been publicly reported that vaccination rates in France and Italy increased significantly after those countries implemented similar health cards; and

WHEREAS, on August 26, 2021, Governor Ige indicated an intention to roll out a "digital smart health card" in early September 2021 for gyms, bars, and restaurants, with voluntary participation by those establishments; and

WHEREAS, on January 20, 2019, the City Council adopted Resolution 19-1, which requested the State Legislature to increase the minimum wage to a living wage for the State of Hawai'i – a step which would mitigate potential staffing concerns related to a health card system; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu ("Council") that it supports Governor Ige's efforts to develop a digital health card system and work with local industries to adopt its use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Council that it urges the City Administration to work with the State of Hawai'i to develop, implement, and mandate, by executive order if necessary, a program for the use of a digital health card:

- For establishments with a higher risk of spreading COVID-19, such as restaurants, bars, gyms, clubs, and indoor events;
- Utilizing digital software such as integration with Safe Travels, LumiSight, or another similarly accessible program;
- To include employees physically present at the respective establishments;
- With appropriate exemptions for certain individuals unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccine; and
- That makes available a portion of the \$193 million in American Rescue Plan Act Fiscal Recovery Funds received June 7, 2021 to provide assistance to establishments requiring support to implement the health card.



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 21-194

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Governor, the Director of Emergency Management, the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Revitalization, the Director of the State Department of Health, the Hawai'i State Association of Counties, and the Mayors of Hawai'i County, Maui County, and Kaua'i County.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tony Wata
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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

AUG 27 2021

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers