



RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ADOPT A TWO OR MORE TEST SHORTENED COVID-19 QUARANTINE SYSTEM FOR TRAVELERS ARRIVING IN HAWAII.

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

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2020, the Governor issued a Second Supplementary Proclamation requiring, subject to limited exceptions, all persons entering the State to be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine, effective March 26, 2020, which resulted in a dramatic reduction of visitors to the Hawaiian islands; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and the extraordinary measures taken by the State and local governments to mitigate the effects of the pandemic have had a severe and unprecedented adverse impact on Hawaii's economy, including the visitor industry and the services that rely on a robust visitor count; and

WHEREAS, while the State and the City and County of Honolulu ("City") look to diversify the local economy during the recovery, the visitor industry will continue to play a critical role in rebooting the economy and putting many unemployed residents back to work; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2020, the Governor announced that as of October 15, 2020, the mandatory 14-day quarantine will no longer be required for travelers if they are tested for COVID-19 no earlier than 72 hours before their flight arrives in Hawaii with a Federal Drug Administration-approved nucleic acid amplification test, performed using a nasal swab, and can show proof of a negative test result from a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments certified laboratory; and

WHEREAS, the Governor also announced that travelers will have their temperatures checked upon arrival and will be required to fill out a travel and health form, and that any travelers unable to provide proof of a negative test result will be required to go into quarantine for 14 days or until they can provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test result; and

WHEREAS, while the Governor's plan attempts to mitigate travel-related spread of COVID-19, each case of a 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



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the current rates of COVID-19 infection in most U.S. states with flights to Honolulu are much higher than that in Honolulu; and

WHEREAS, infectious disease experts believe that a single pre-travel test, even if 100 percent accurate and correctly administered, is likely to miss 43 percent of travelers who are infected with COVID-19, due to viral levels being negligible in the first three to four days of infection. Therefore, a two or more test system with preserved quarantine should be implemented; and

WHEREAS, performing two or more tests in conjunction with a mandatory medically appropriate quarantine period would greatly increase the ability of medical professionals to identify arriving travelers who could spread the virus within the State, would lessen the State's contact tracing burden, would reduce the current required quarantine time, and would reduce the health and safety risk to the people of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, a two or more test system would allow the visitor industry to target higher-spending visitors in order to increase economic activity with a lower impact on public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the hospitality industry and small businesses have deeply struggled during the pandemic, and a steep rise in COVID-19 cases due to increased arrivals of infected travelers to Hawaii could lead to a subsequent closure of the economy or to further shutdown orders, which would likely cause insurmountable hardships for many already struggling local businesses and lead to further job losses and business closures; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Governor to adopt and implement a two or more test system for COVID-19 for all travelers arriving in Hawaii who wish to bypass the mandatory 14-day quarantine; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State be urged to postpone its reopening to transpacific travel, scheduled for October 15, 2020, until an adequate plan for a two or more test system, in conjunction with a mandatory medically appropriate quarantine period, can be developed and implemented; and



RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor and the leadership team overseeing the State's public health response to COVID-19 and the pre-travel testing program, including the Lieutenant Governor, the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, the State Director of Health, and Dr. Virginia Pressler of the Lauima Alliance.

INTRODUCED BY:

Tony Waters

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

OCT 1 2020
Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 20-253


Introduced: 10/01/20 By: TOMMY WATERS Committee: COUNCIL

Title: RESOLUTION URGING THE GOVERNOR TO ADOPT A TWO OR MORE TEST SHORTENED COVID-19 QUARANTINE SYSTEM FOR TRAVELERS ARRIVING IN HAWAII.

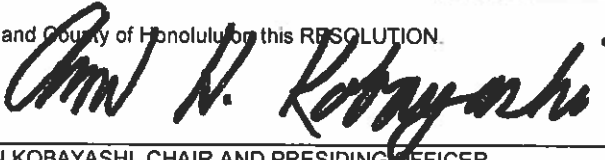
Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

10/07/20 COUNCIL RESOLUTION 20-253 WAS ADOPTED.
9 AYES: ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TEXEIRA, TSUNEYOSHI, 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



ANN KOBAYASHI, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER