



RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND THE MAYOR TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER AMENDING THEIR EMERGENCY ORDERS REGARDING COVID-19 BY MANDATING THE WEARING OF FACE COVERINGS BY INDIVIDUALS WHILE OUTDOORS REGARDLESS OF PHYSICAL DISTANCING AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE SAME HOUSEHOLD.

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 due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, also on March 4, 2020, Mayor Kirk Caldwell ("Mayor") issued a Proclamation declaring the existence of a state of emergency in the City and County of Honolulu due to the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 infection is transmitted predominately by respiratory droplets generated when people cough, sneeze, sing, talk, or breathe; and

WHEREAS, the practice of wearing face coverings significantly reduces the emission of virus-laden droplets by an infected person and the inhalation of such droplets by the wearer; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in a publication entitled "Scientific Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2," dated November 20, 2020, reported that "increasing universal masking by 15 percent could prevent the need for lockdowns and reduce associated losses of up to \$1 trillion, or about five percent of gross domestic product"; and

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Mayor responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by issuing a series of proclamations, supplementary proclamations, and emergency orders, which, among other things, imposed orders requiring individuals to wear face coverings in public settings; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Sixteenth Proclamation Related to the COVID-19 Emergency, dated November 23, 2020, and the Mayor's Emergency Order No. 2020-30, dated November 19, 2020, mandate individuals to wear face coverings in public settings, but provide exceptions for individuals while outdoors when a physical distance of six feet from other individuals who are not members of the same household can be maintained at all times; and



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WHEREAS, it may be difficult, however, for enforcement officers to discern whether or not a group of unmasked individuals are members of the same household and whether or not an unmasked individual is less than six feet from other individuals; and

WHEREAS, in addition, eliminating the foregoing exceptions to the emergency orders would reduce ambiguity and public confusion regarding the orders and send a clear message to the public about the need to wear face coverings; and

WHEREAS, in view of the reopening of Hawaii's tourism economy at a time when COVID-19 cases are surging on the U.S. mainland and the anticipated rise in COVID-19 infections due to the upcoming holiday season, additional safety measures are needed to protect Honolulu's residents and visitors from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that the wearing of face coverings plays a key role in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 infection, and the Governor's and Mayor's emergency orders regarding the wearing of face coverings should be amended to improve the enforceability and clarity of such orders; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Governor and Mayor are requested to seriously consider amending their emergency orders regarding COVID-19 by mandating the wearing of face coverings by individuals while outdoors regardless of physical distancing and whether or not they are members of the same household; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and Mayor, in amending their emergency orders regarding COVID-19, should also consider providing exceptions as appropriate, such as in cases where an individual's medical or health condition precludes wearing a face covering, in cases involving young minors, or when individuals engage in ocean activities such as swimming; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. 20-321

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

INTRODUCED BY:

[Handwritten Signature]

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

NOV 25 2020

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers