



RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO THE DEDICATED PARTIES THAT PAVED THE WAY FOR THE SAFE RESUMPTION OF INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS.

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

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

WHEREAS, due to health and safety concerns for Hawaii's keiki, interscholastic sports activities State-wide were abruptly suspended; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, has found that, in addition to the physical health benefits, the mental health benefits to youth that are associated with sports participation are more critical than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 cases numbers in Hawaii have dropped, community spread has been brought under control, and further guidance has been provided on how to safely resume youth sporting activities, students, parents, coaches, teachers, administrators, and community leaders have pushed for the safe resumption of interscholastic sports; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution 21-18, CD1, which formally urged the creation of a stakeholder group, the Safe Sports Hawaii community initiative, to discuss how to safely resume outdoor organized team sports in Hawaii, including interscholastic sports; and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu Reopening Strategy, issued pursuant to Mayor Caldwell's Emergency Order No. 2020-27, sets out the criteria for loosening and tightening COVID-related restrictions on businesses and activities along a four-tier continuum, with Tier 1 being the most restrictive and Tier 4 being the most relaxed; and

WHEREAS, based on recent metrics, the Governor recently approved the request of Mayor Rick Blangiardi ("Mayor Blangiardi") to move the City to Tier 3 of the Honolulu Reopening Strategy, beginning on February 25, 2021; and



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WHEREAS, per the Honolulu Reopening Strategy, "outdoor sports associated with educational institutions may operate in accordance with [State] Department of Health guidance," even under the more restrictive Tier 1 and Tier 2; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2021, the Department of Health ("DOH") released guidelines for the safe return of youth sports; and

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, Mayor Blangiardi announced plans to submit a request to the Governor to modify Tier 3 restrictions to allow for organized sports; and

WHEREAS, it appears that, with the recent issuance of the DOH guidelines, outdoor interscholastic sports are now able to resume, subject to any applicable DOH restrictions and permissions; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, should Mayor Blangiardi's request to the Governor to allow for organized sports in Tier 3 be approved, a wider array of interscholastic sports may be available to students; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it expresses appreciation to the dedicated parties that have paved the way for the safe resumption of interscholastic sports in Hawaii, in general, and in Honolulu, in particular; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council would like to specifically thank Mayor Blangiardi for his support, the Department of Parks and Recreation for opening City facilities to the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health for finalizing its guidance on youth sports, the members of the Safe Sports Hawaii community initiative for their efforts, and the Interscholastic League of Honolulu and club leagues for acquainting themselves with the DOH guidelines and initiating a return to play for our keiki; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Hawaii State Board of Education, the Superintendent of the Hawaii State Department of Education, and the Executive Board of the Hawaii High School Athletic Association.

INTRODUCED BY:

A. Spola

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

FEB 24 2021

Honolulu, Hawaii

Councilmembers