

Aloha Hawaii Leaders,

We are writing on behalf of the State of Hawaii Beauty Industry. We have united our industry of licensed professionals. We have come together as a coalition (Hawaii Salons Forum) to announce that we can reopen our businesses safely.

We are state licensed businesses. Our industry is required to complete professional education that includes studies in bacteriology, virology, pathogens and methods of prevention and sanitation. We share your desire to protect the public's health and we are confident of our ability to do so, while helping our communities with their personal wellbeing, as it has always been a top priority for our industry.

We need to reopen. Hawaii Salons Forum has called on salon owners, working hairstylists, barbers, nail technicians, estheticians, brow artists, makeup artists, beauty schools and our industry suppliers. We all need reopen to be allowed the opportunity to safely provide for our families. Each day that passes that we are mandated to keep our businesses closed forces more and more of our industry professionals to move into unregulated, unsanitary garages and to do house-calls where they have no control over sanitation in order to provide for their families. Our industry has been criminalized! We need to reopen our businesses with proper sanitation practices and guidelines to keep our staff and our communities safe, and we need to do it now.

Our customers are ready. Every day we are inundated with calls, texts, and emails from our customers with the same questions: "Why aren't you open yet? When can you open? How soon can I get an appointment? Can you come to my house? Why are the malls open but you aren't?"

We acknowledge that we are in the midst of a pandemic. When we are permitted to reopen, we will adhere DCCA Board of Barbering and Cosmetology and Department of Health and Sanitation guidelines as well as any amendments required to the proposed industry guidelines in order to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 between our employees, our customers and our communities. We will not begin operations until we are given permission to do so because we respect and admire our community and state officials' efforts to keep our Hawai'i safe.

With additional guidelines, you will find that our industry can re-open much safer than some industries you have chosen to open ahead of us. We are better trained, and more prepared in these matters. And we have more control over who enters our businesses, where they allowed to sit/touch and the time they spend in our establishments. We did not have proper representation for the beauty industry prior, that has changed.

We are ready, our staff is ready, our customers are ready. Hawaii is ready.

We call to you respectfully Governor Ige, Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Mayor Victorino, Mayor Kim, Mayor Kawakami.

Sincerely,

Hawaii Salons Forum
www.hawaiisalons.org