



Aloha Mayor Victorino,

We wanted to let you know we will be having a mostly motorcade demonstration (for safety) on Monday from 4-6 pm for our movement:  
#ProtectHawaii - stop COVID-19 and keep Hawaii COVID free.

We at HALE Hawai'i are reaching out to you to ask for support to help stop the spread of COVID-19 and support the #ProtectHawaii movement. Because many groups have the same goal, we believe it is in all of our best interest to align, and unify as many representatives and groups as is possible to support the #ProtectHawaii movement. The #ProtectHawaii movement is about changing Maui's goal and the state of Hawai'i's goal to stopping COVID-19 and keep Hawai'i COVID free.

This would require government action and much more stringent measures to prevent COVID-19 from entering Hawai'i. It would necessitate much more contact tracing and increased testing to stop the current community spread.

We have a petition that was created by a group of doctors on Kauai. We would like to see this plan implemented state wide because it would eliminate almost every case of COVID-19 coming into the islands (You can find under the tab "Kauai Plan". There are also quite a few ideas and plans on our website including letters to government officials that we have submitted. [www.HaleHawaii.cc](http://www.HaleHawaii.cc)

After observing the complacency evidenced by the Department of Health and Department of Education Superintendent, we are concerned that the state is willingly putting the safety of students, teachers, staff and their families at risk. The state is not doing its part to stop community spread. The state has not even been willing to adopt that as a goal. We believe the state intends for all students to end up in a distant learning situation so that we can "re-open" tourism. While they have not said this directly, it has been implied that in-person school may not be possible until later this year. This blatant disregard for students, families and DOE employees is alarming. The DOH has admitted multiple times at press conferences that they expect cases to significantly increase once we start welcoming back tourists. They are willing to sacrifice our students, and their very short childhood in order to re-open, placing the desires of business ahead of the well-being of residents.

We know the safest way to have in-person school is to stop community spread. Yet currently, the state government does not seem to be making it a top priority to stop community spread completely. Instead, the state's goal is just to keep cases at a manageable level. This is simply not good enough. We have been polling thousands of Hawai'i residents and have found a large majority would like much stronger preventative measures taken to stop COVID-19. We, along with other groups, have submitted plans to the state that would greatly reduce the number of cases coming into our islands.

We are seeing repeatedly the state and county mandates, rules, orders are not being enforced. We know for every person caught breaking quarantine there are many times that getting away with breaking quarantine. We know the number of state exemptions has been steadily increasing. We had the same large group dispersed 3 days in a row in three different locations and none of them were given citations or arrested. Now there are 2 groups of people with increasing tensions and threats being made



(a group from the little beach drum circle and a group of people who want them to stop). We are concerned about this situation that was created out of vigilantism among a concerned group of citizens wanting enforcement of the 10 person gathering rule. If this matter was handled more seriously the first time it likely would have stopped. People who are breaking rules know that there will likely not be consequences.

We also understand that at one time many of the citations the police wrote were dismissed and that this has caused some tension and may have created dissuasion for our law enforcement officers to enforce rules and mandates. We encourage you to have a meeting with prosecutors, and law enforcement to create an enforcement hotline and plan similar to the one created in Honolulu that was announced yesterday.

We would also like to volunteer to have one of our leaders join your Maui Economic Recovery Task Force. We have members who have been attending many governmental and community townhalls, BOE meetings, and weekly meetings with doctors and teachers. We have members who are much more informed about the desires of many groups and citizens and we would love to be able to share a lot of this useful information and these insights about community concerns and needs.

Most states don't have the choice to eliminate COVID-19 entirely. Many states are doing everything possible in hopes that they can get community spread low enough to safely have in-person learning. Our state has a unique opportunity to implement more stringent reopening plans that could catch almost every case of COVID-19 that arrives in the state. Governor Ige has chosen not to implement any of these plans. This is unacceptable. We need the state to prioritize the health and well-being of its people and give our children the chance to have as normal a childhood as possible.

We ask that you stand with us and tell Governor Ige to #ProtectHawaii--this means making it the goal of each county and the State of Hawai'i to eliminate COVID-19 from our islands, and keep Hawai'i COVID free. (Instead of the current goal of keeping cases at a manageable level).

We appreciate your efforts and requests to reinstate the inter-island quarantine and to delay in person school until community spread has decreased significantly.

We would love to have a zoom or other virtual meeting to further discuss these issues at your convenience.

Mahalo for consideration,

Cara Flores

HALE Hawai'i

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