

CLICK THROUGH FOR SLIDESHOW

A Collective, Citizen Driven Call for a Sensible Reopening

**For Governor Ige, Lt. Governor Josh Green, Senators,
Representatives, County Mayors, and Business Leaders**

Please don't rush the the re-opening with an unsafe single pre-flight test protocol. Open on metrics, not an arbitrary date.

Locking down again will be curtains for our economy!

September 24th, 2020

Please replicate, use and share widely

Feedback and comments welcome

A Disclaimer

The authors of this presentation, and many other experts, consider the state to be playing with fire. We've been surprised by the proposal to open up on October 15 with a single pre-flight test. It seems to continue a pattern of wishful thinking.

Many of us looking at the best practices around the world can't understand why a single preflight test is even being proposed. As far as we know, no country in the world has yet figured out how to open to tourism without a 14 day quarantine (no matter how much testing) and certainly not with a single pre-flight test.

With a stated goal to get to under 150 daily new cases and a positive test rate of under 5%, we think that the recent lessons, on Hawaii, Tahiti, Alaska, and elsewhere, are not being embraced. Science suggests this reopening will backfire.

We Too Want To Reopen,
but a Single Pre-Flight Test is Not Sufficient.

We Know the Pre-Flight Test (even with 2nd tests,
but with no strict quarantines) Failed in Tahiti and Alaska.

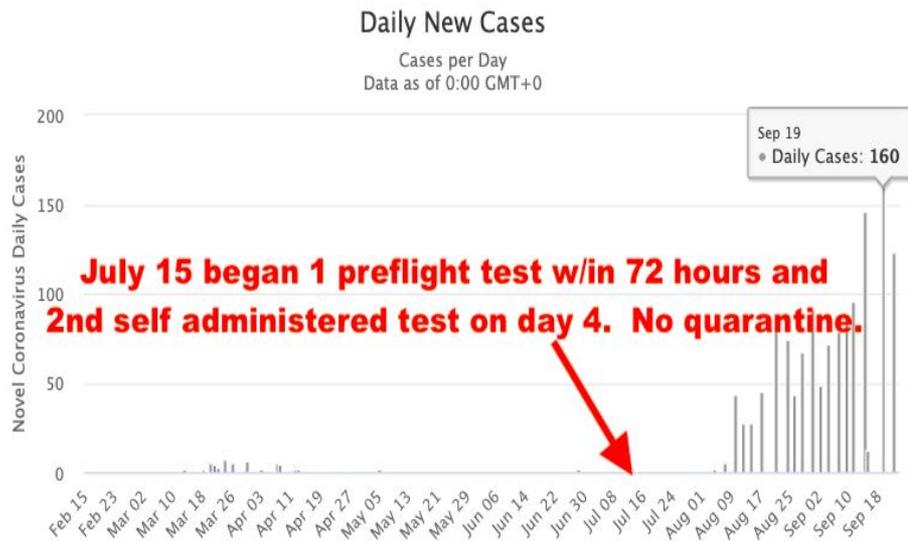
Open unwisely, and we'll soon be closing right back down,
further harming our citizens and our business interests.

Film, Sports, Aviation, etc. use multi-test protocols.

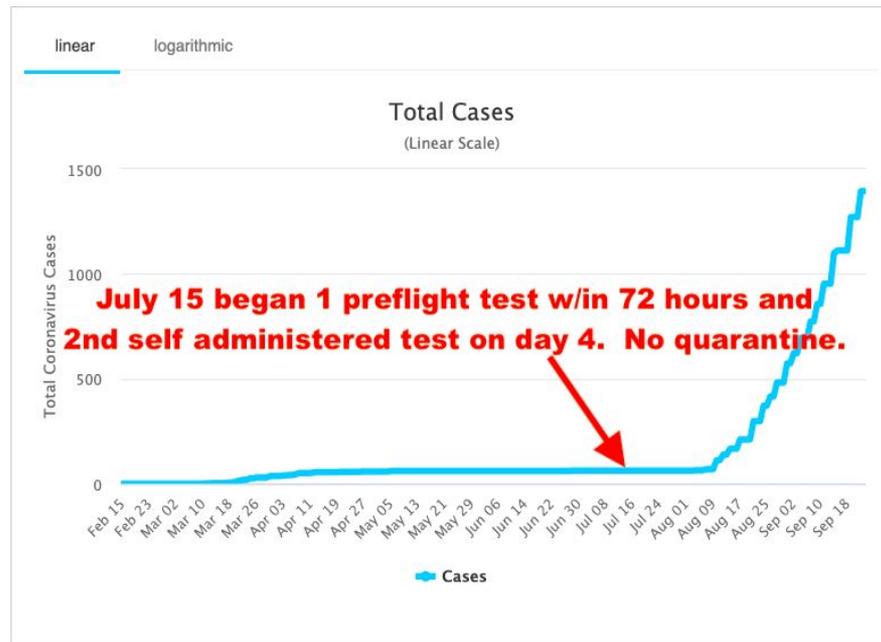
At the least, hold to a 7 Day Quarantine with a 2nd Test on Day 7.

Let's look at what happened when Tahiti reopened with a 72 hour pre-flight test, no quarantine, and a 2nd test on day 4.

Daily New Cases in French Polynesia

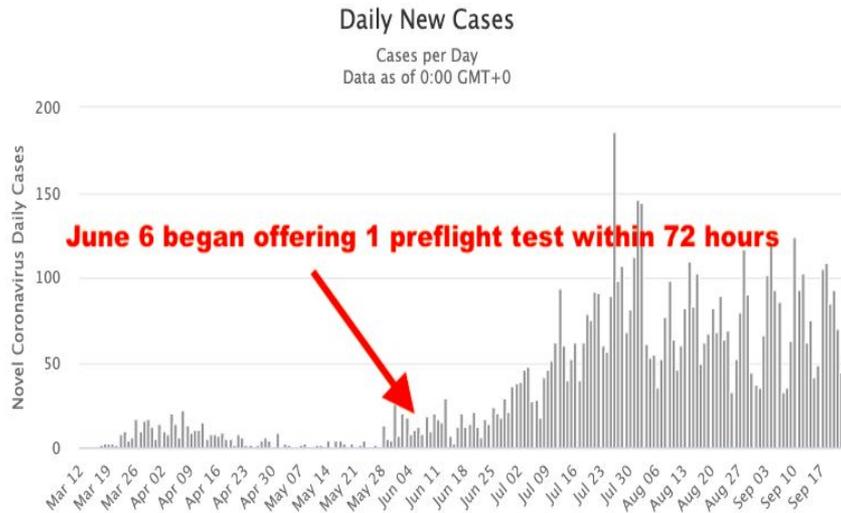


Total Coronavirus Cases in French Polynesia



This is what happened when Alaska reopened with either a 72-hour pre-flight test, or a test on arrival with a 2nd test between days 7 and 14, both with no quarantine.

Daily New Cases in Alaska



Total Coronavirus Cases in Alaska



Here's how "under control" they were when they reopened.

Tahiti: 2 active cases on July 15.

Alaska: 146 active cases on June 6.

Here's how "under control" we'll be when we reopen.

Hawaii: Opening October 15 with over ~8,000 active cases.

Today, Hawaii has over 6400 known active cases, with recent surge testing indicating about 6000 more in the community. That's over 12,000 active cases.

Proposal

Cautiously reopen with a 7 day quarantine and at least a 2 test protocol.

- 1) Travellers can get a negative pre-flight test within 72 hours of departure.
- 2) They then are held to a strict quarantine.
- 3) On day 7, and no sooner, they are tested by DOH staff.

If the test is negative, combined with their negative pre-flight test, they can then leave the hotel (under modified conditions for the following week).

Recognize Our Fallibility

We have an admitted, proven record of:

- 1) Underestimating how easy it is to catch the virus.
- 2) Underestimating how easy it is to spread the virus.
- 3) Overestimating our ability to trace and stop spread.

The May 18th, *Making Hawaii Safe For Travel* document, first promoted the single pre-flight test option. Nine steps were to be taken to support this 1 test protocol.

Only ONE of the nine steps were implemented - and it was deemed ineffective.

Our Fallibility - The *Making Hawaii Safe For Travel* Document (May 18, 2020)

This document first proposed the single pre-flight test with 9 supporting conditions.

- 1) No - Hawaii could buy 100 Abbott Rapid Test Machines for 9600 daily tests by July.
- 2) No - Abbott would be producing 2 million ID NOW tests (5-13 min for results) by July.
- 3) No - Airlines would monitor and manage electronically transmitted negative test results.
- 4) No - National Guard would enforce the quarantines of all positive and non-tested arrivals.
- 5) No - Airlines would monitor and verify all travel declaration documents for contact tracing.
- 6) No - All departing from Hawaii passengers would be tested to protect airline employees.
- 7) No - All visitors would be tested once every 7 days.
- 8) No - All visitor industry workers would be tested every 7 days.
- 9) Yes - Temperature sensors to screen for infected passengers. (since proven ineffective)

Eight of the nine conditions still UNMET, with the ninth deemed ineffective.

Obvious Problems with a Single Pre-flight Test

- 1) We'll miss 100% of those infected between their test and the flight.
- 2) We'll miss 100% of those infected on the flight.
- 3) We'll miss 100% of those recently infected, but not yet with a detectable viral load.
- 4) We know false negatives still occur and are missed with just a single test.
- 5) Verifying preflight test validity, from all states and countries, will be impossible.
- 6) We know some infected people will choose not to test, or choose not to reveal a positive result - for any number of reasons.

Why a shortened 7 Day Quarantine Option is a reasonable compromise.

- It is simple, practical and doable, cutting the current quarantine in half.
- It doesn't depend on the airlines or others to report or monitor.
- It doesn't require testing by multiple entities around the world.
- All travellers are in a safe, easy to monitor environment.
- It allows for all traveler 2nd tests to be done in by our Dept of Health.
- With a pretest, and a test on day 7, we will catch the vast majority of cases.

The day 7 test can be moved in either direction to loosen or tighten controls.

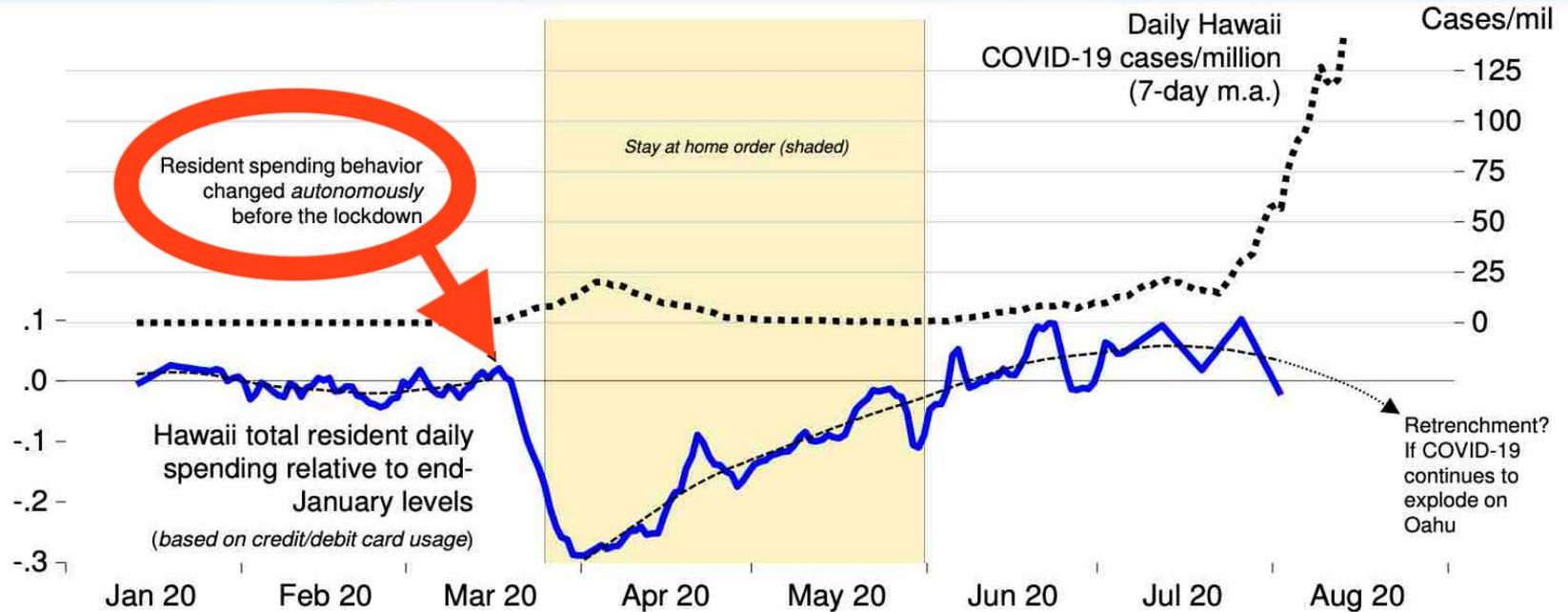
Misperception 1 - Not understanding the complex inverse relationship between opening and economic activity, and the impact of surges.

It is not fully understood that the best long term economic response can in fact be an especially strong (and painful) immediate term health response.

Opening up now may actually hurt the economy more in the long run, not help it. This has been shown on the mainland, and worldwide. States that opened up too soon had surges, requiring additional, avoidable, extended lockdowns.

There is a counterintuitive inverse relationship between opening up and economic activity. The following chart makes this clear.

March 2020 spending fell as risk-averse Hawaii consumers sheltered, mitigating SARS-CoV-2 transmission; resurgence implies retrenchment



Slide copyright 2020 TZ

Sources: Opportunity Insights (<https://tracktherecovery.org/>), daily data on resident debit and credit card use from Affinity Solutions, Hawaii Data Collaborative (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sc-L317Je9ZhiQh3_uH9jTkl3ckc_o3sgrVauShowCk/edit#gid=0)

Misperception 2 - Not understanding the negative impact of even a small number of daily active cases. Patient Zero Matters.

It has been claimed that with 100-150 daily new cases the schools can reopen.

Schools will not reopen with a high number of cases in the community.

In mid July, when cases were averaging 20 a day on Oahu, a sufficient percent of teachers made it clear they would not teach in person. The unions backed them.

When new cases persist, economic activity declines and schools stay shut.

Open to tourism, and expect to keep schools closed. We have to make a choice.

Misperception 3 - Not recognizing the fidelity it takes to contain covid.

On August 10th, New Zealand, with the best covid response practices in the world, picked up 4 cases while doing 2000 asymptomatic surveillance tests.

They shutdown Auckland within 24 hours and ramped up to 175,000 tests over the next 10 days. They contained it, eventually finding almost 200 cases.

That's what it takes. Aim for this level of response and we'll have a chance at a holiday season. We have over 10,000 known and inferred active cases (from surge test results), and average under 2000 tests per day.

A large increase in the availability of rapid antigen tests is expected in the next two months, and in some places are already available. Why jump the gun now?

A Serious Tradeoff - Kids back in school, or tourists back on the beaches?

There seems to be a feeling that we can open to tourism, live with 100 to 150 new daily cases, maintain a positive test rate of 5%, and get the kids in school.

Our Department of Education (DOE) recently released benchmarks for reopening schools - using the CDC's framework. Except for one thing.

Hawaii's DOE adjusted the allowable new cases to be on a scale of 10,000 instead of using the CDC's scale of 100,000. Why aim so low?

This mean Hawaii based kids will face 10 times the risk kids face in California.

We saw back in July that the teacher unions, and many families, won't go for it.

A Serious Tradeoff - Kids back in school, or tourists back on the beaches?

California School Reopening Benchmarks Per 100,000		
County risk level	Adjusted cases	Positivity rate
WIDESPREAD Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	More than 7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8% Positive tests
SUBSTANTIAL Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	4-7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	5 – 8% Positive tests
In Person Classes Allowed		
MODERATE Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	1 – 3.9 Daily new cases (per 100k)	2 – 4.9% Positive tests
MINIMAL Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	Less than 1 Daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2% Positive tests

A Serious Tradeoff - Kids back in school, or tourists back on the beaches?

Hawaii School Reopening Benchmarks **Per 10,000**

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by island of residence*	Consider the following Learning Model
0–5	In-person learning for students 
6–15	In-person learning for elementary students; blended learning for secondary students
16–25	Blended learning for students
26–35	Blended learning for elementary students; learning from home for secondary students
36+	Learning from home for students

SUMMARY

There is no debate that the first and most effective line of defense, by many magnitudes, is to prevent the virus from entering the community in the first place - with a robust testing protocol and quarantine for all travelers.

There is also no serious debate, and no supporting science, that a single preflight test will be effective at catching more than 70% of potentially infected individuals - and quite possibly as little as 30%.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/09/why-we-should-set-the-bar-high-on-testing-visitors/>

If the state plans to open without a robust multi-test protocol, due to current test kit shortages, or logistical challenges, please take the following interim step.

Implement a two-test 7-day shortened quarantine, by combining the pre-flight test with a local day 7 test.

If we do this well, we will catch almost all incoming symptomatic and asymptomatic cases.

With this responsible but still risky approach, we'll have cut current quarantine time in half, and have taken a major step toward meeting the needs of all constituents while we await more testing resources.

We'll also have a new gating lever (the choice of the day to do the 2nd test) that we can move forward or backward as new testing resources become available.