



August 5, 2020

Aloha Governor Ige and Hawaii Leaders:

I am writing you from the grassroots organization HALE Hawai'i, whose mission is to help Hawai'i's people and its leaders to keep Hawai'i safe from COVID-19. We want leaders to know that preventing the virus from coming in and spreading is very important to most of Hawai'i's residents.

We are the sponsors of this online petition: <https://sign.moveon.org/petitions/we-need-a-covid-19-free-hawaii-and-effective-quarantine-enforcement>. We sent you the petition on July 29, but we wanted you to know that it now has over 1,050 signatures. The petition is only a week old, so 1,050 signers in such a short time demonstrates that there is a lot of support for it.

We are very concerned about the lack of enforcement of quarantine and the plan to open up to visitors without quarantine on September 1, at a time when school is supposed to be opening and cases are spiking so rapidly both here and on the mainland. We just cannot have a normal life, including school, with uncontrolled COVID-19 cases.

The U.H. Policy Center conducted a poll in June, and 81% of residents said that they support a travel quarantine and are not ready to welcome tourists (<https://www.travelweekly.com/Hawaii-Travel/Hawaii-not-ready-to-reopen-residents-say>). Hawai'i News Now reported recently that the majority of residents feel that way (<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/08/civil-beat-hnn-poll-hawaii-voters-dont-like-school-tourism-reopen-plans/>). Since these polls were conducted, nothing has changed to make travel safer. On the contrary, cases are still very high on the mainland, and we still do not have access to a sufficient number of tests. Meanwhile, due to the high number of quarantine violations coupled with the failure to enforce mask-wearing and limits on the size of gatherings, cases within the state, especially on Oahu, are spiking to the point where we have already lost the ability to contact trace effectively, and are facing the imminent possibility of another shutdown.

We propose replacing the current quarantine system with the Kauai proposed plan, which can be found here: <https://halehawaii.cc/kauai-plan>. It would require two tests and 6 days in a designated quarantine hotel.

We are also extremely concerned about the state and county governments' failures to enforce the existing mandates that were put in place to keep us safe. Mandates for mask wearing and limits on the size of gatherings do no good if state and county frontline law enforcement officers ignore rampant violations reported to them by local residents. In addition, there appears to be very uneven implementation of quarantine procedures both for mainland and neighbor island flights. It seems to be assumed, at the Kahului airport at least, that everyone coming in from O'ahu is flying inter-island and does not need to quarantine, but that simply is not true. Many visitors fly to Honolulu and then connect to local flights to the neighbor islands to escape quarantine. Then they say that they thought they were not required to quarantine, because there are no procedures upon arrival to ensure their compliance.

Kauai seems to be the only island that has strict guidelines in place for all arriving passengers, regardless of where their flights originated. (See <https://www.kitv.com/story/42454618/kauai-county-creates->



[mahalo-green-card-placard-program-to-differentiate-between-travelers-and-those-subject-to-quarantine.](#)) We are asking Governor Ige to mandate that all neighbor islands adopt Kauai's procedures.

But even with Kauai's procedures, tourists try to break quarantine daily. Re-instituting quarantine for all inter-island travel would handle this concern, but at the very least we ask that there be a check for passengers who should be in quarantine.

In the coming days and weeks, our organization and others with which we are collaborating intend to hold escalating demonstrations for the #ProtectHawaii movement. This movement's purpose is to stop COVID-19 and keep Hawaii COVID-19 free. We would like this state to formally adopt this as a goal, rather than to cater to institutions that do not care about the health and safety of Hawai'i's residents.

We ask for your action and that you review the HALE petition, the Kauai proposed plan for quarantine hotels, and Kauai's procedure for airport arrivals.

Thank you for your care and concern for our lovely island home and its people!

Sincerely,

Cara Flores

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HALE Hawaii
www.Halehawaii.cc.