

July 14, 2020

To: Senate Special Committee on COVID-19
Cc: State Leadership

From: Sarah Lopez, HALE Hawaii

Dear Senate Special Committee on COVID-19,

I am requesting a thorough update to the current quarantine and enforcement plan. I may be mistaken, but the last update I was able to find was dated April 24, 2020. For ease of reference, I have included the document as a separate attachment. My experience in even trying to find the quarantine enforcement plan was no easy task.

After reading the plan, there appears to be stark discrepancies between the outlined expectations for enforcement versus what is **actually** being done (or not being done). As you can see, the loose definitions and general interpretations are not providing the education, training, leadership or authority required for successful program implementation. The current plan puts people at unnecessary risk, especially hotel workers, and does not demonstrate the seriousness of the pandemic or prioritize community and public health and safety.

WHO is responsible for enforcing quarantine and HOW is it going to be enforced?

Is the residence, rented lodging, or hotel room operator responsible for enforcing visitor quarantine? If so:

Who at the residence, rented lodging, or hotel room is responsible for enforcing the quarantine?

Do those workers have a thorough understanding of what that responsibility entails?

What enforcement training is provided to these workers? Who is responsible for providing it?

Are these operators/workers and law enforcement working together throughout the quarantine of travelers or only involved when suspected violations occur?

Today, I spoke with the Outrigger Waikiki who stated that it is the hotel's responsibility to enforce the quarantine of visitors. When I asked them how they enforce quarantine they responded "visitors are issued a one time use hotel key." This is not an appropriate measure of enforcement, especially for multiple visitors staying in one room. As long as one person remains in the room to open the door from inside they can "take turns" leaving and returning at will. Additionally,

This also places even more unnecessary risk for COVID19 exposure to the community, especially hotel employees.

How realistic is it for hotel employees to call law enforcement on violations when they are paying visitors?

What are the consequences in the event an investigation reasonably demonstrates an operator did not report a known quarantine violation?

How realistic is it for visitors to not leave their place of quarantine except for medical emergencies for two weeks?

According to the State of Hawaii's "Hawaii's Safe Travels System" website <https://safetravels.hawaii.gov/>, visitors are to comply with the following rules:

Remain in your designated quarantine location for a period of 14 days or the duration of your stay in the State of Hawaii, whichever is shorter.

May not leave your designated location (residence, rented lodging, or hotel room) only for medical emergencies or to seek medical care.

May not visit public spaces, including but not limited to pools, meeting rooms, fitness centers, or restaurants.

May not allow visitors in or out of your designated quarantine location other than a physician, healthcare provider, or individual authorized to enter the designated quarantine location by the Director of HIEMA.

Today, I called Honolulu and Maui Police Departments non-emergency lines. The automatic system has prompts to connect with someone regarding abandoned vehicles but no option to connect with anyone directly to report a suspected quarantine violation. They also confirmed that a direct line is not available to report violations. Three months after the quarantine enforcement outline was published and it is easier to report an abandoned vehicle than it is to report a quarantine violation during a global pandemic that has shut down global economy and killed hundreds of thousands of people within months.

In addition to an updated Quarantine Enforcement Plan, the Senate Special Committee on COVID-19 or designee of the committee should make a concerted effort to educate the public, community, and every business in operation providing hotel or room accommodations to visitors. The information should be published in conspicuous places so the community has reasonable understanding of the plan and may work together with enforcement officials to protect the community from a COVID19 outbreak.

Lastly, our organization is dedicated to stopping community spread of COVID19. We would like to help and collaborate with this committee to find realistic workable solutions.

Respectfully,
Sarah Lopez/HALE Hawaii