

April 11, 2020

Dear Leadership of Hawai'i,

HI-COVID Community Task Force, representing a cross section of health care workers and science professionals in Hawai'i ("HI-COVID"), is grateful for the multitude of efforts throughout our island community, including the quick, decisive calls to action by our leaders, which put our islands in a comparatively advantageous position to handle the threats to our public health and to protect our health care workers.

Our vision is to create an ongoing partnership with your office, as well as health care administration, and unions, to champion those on the ground carrying out medical support. A defining truth of this pandemic is an acute risk to the well-being of health care workers, despite which they have and will continue to make huge sacrifices in their personal and professional lives. We are continually looking at ways to preclude any sense of disenfranchisement for these workers, amidst this rapidly-changing crisis, and have created a support system for those fighting the battle on the ground to share medical news, logistics and updates.

HI-COVID has put together an advisory to the community that includes the best practices for reducing the spread of COVID-19 in Hawai'i which we are sharing this with leadership to avoid any possibility of frustrating your commendable efforts.

Outlined below are topics of importance that our community believes have direct, or nearly direct, impact on our Hawai'i's Healthcare Workers (HCW):

- a. Semi-regular COVID-19 **testing** being available for all **HCW**, even in the absence of symptoms.
- b. Continuation of **Drive-Through Testing** sites for COVID-19. Reduced reliance in medical settings on 'screening', which focuses on temperature and self-reporting of symptoms, given the high incidence of asymptomatic carriers.
- d. **Effective Contact Tracing and Quarantine**. We are interested in collaborating on solutions to more effectively enforce the quarantine of incoming visitors and residents, without which all combined efforts to combat contagion are thwarted. We have over 100 medically-trained volunteers looking for opportunities to help in this area.
- e. **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** being readily available for HCW and/or HCW not be subjected to policies restricting use of their own, higher levels of PPE, are top priorities. We also support all essential workers—from banks, stores, to post office—being permitted to use PPE that they create or source, for their own and the public's health.
- f. **Accommodations for infected community members, and healthcare providers**. The ability for households faced with COVID-19 infections could be strengthened through a strategic housing and accommodations system, and we believe we share this vision with your office. We are also desirous of improving the accommodations options for our most exposed HCW, to reduce contagion risks for their 'ohana. Many of our HCW live in a household with another HCW, or with kupuna. Likewise, we are receiving input on current COVID-19 hotel programs being incompatible with HCW's schedules.

HI-COVID acknowledges that much planning and collaboration is underway, on many if not all of the fronts referenced above. We look forward to being of assistance and improving how advances regarding these matters, of vital importance, are relayed to the frontline HCW on the ground. We are at the disposal of our community members, and your office. Please do not hesitate.

Mahalo nui,
HI-COVID Community Task Force
Supported by: