COVID-19 Update Log, April 6, 2020

Hawaii Public Policy Advocates/Hawaii Dental Association

Date	COVID-19 Update	Links
4/6/20	County mayors are considering enforcing stricter mandates during what many consider to be a key period of time in Hawaii's fight to flatten the curve. Maui County, for example, may institute curfews and vehicle checkpoints similar to what's in place on Kauai. Hawaii Island Mayor Harry Kim continues to resist more extreme measures in his attempt to try and balance public health with emotional health and economic stability. Hawaii banks are scrambling to operationalize the federal loan program for struggling small businesses (defined as having 500 or less employees). The primary goal is to infuse cash into businesses to help with payroll, which helps keep people off unemployment and also in theory helps businesses reopen quicker with a ready workforce once they get the green light. Banks and government officials are stressing this program is done on a first come, first serve basis so businesses are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. Positive COVID-19 cases increased by 20, bringing the statewide total to 371. State officials are frustrated that visitors, though in much smaller numbers, are still choosing to visit Hawaii. In addition, Hawaii residents continue to travel and return testing positive, which make up the majority of yesterday's new cases. Honolulu police continue to break up large public gatherings, particularly at popular beaches and parks.	County mayors consider stricter safety and enforcement measures: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/06/hawaii-news/isle-mayors-consider-stricter-safety-measures/ Hawaii banks begin rolling out relief to small businesses: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-banks-start-rolling-out-relief-to-small-firms/ Positive cases now at 371; traveling continues despite officials efforts to shut it down: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/06/hawaii-news/covid-19-cases-rise-as-visitor-counts-grow/ Survey shows nearly 25% of Hawaii residents fear they have COVID-19 symptoms: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/05/breaking-news/nearly-25-in-hawaii-fear-having-covid-19-symptoms-survey-shows/
4/5/20	Governor Ige and top lawmakers face a tough budget reality. While pre-COVID models projected 3-4% growth, the most conservative models now predict at least a 10% decline. With each percentage point representing approximately $75 million, that represents about a $1 billion decrease of projections from a total budget that's only $8.4 billion. This means that previous big ideas related to affordable housing, minimum wage, and teacher pay are on the chopping block along with union raises. Funding construction projects will remain a priority, along with ensuring the basic needs of Hawaii citizens will be met. It is still unclear if/when the legislature will reconvene. At least five departments in the Ige administration are struggling with capacity as they work to combat COVID-19 with a reduced workforce. Those departments are labor, business, health, defense, and agriculture. While some legislators have urged Ige to move public workers in other departments	Governor Ige and top lawmakers face tough budget decisions as projected revenue severely drops: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/05/hawaii-news/gov-david-ige-lawmakers-face-a-grim-budget-scenario-and-some-tough-choices/ At least five departments in the Ige administration are struggling to produce since their reduced workforce lacks capacity: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-officials-are-struggling-to-get-help-to-overburdened-agencies/ As cases continue to rise, a 4th death is reported; officials working on statewide policy on wearing

	to support those most in need, he has balked at the idea citing collective bargaining concerns. And while the Chief of Staff said the Attorney General needs to determine what laws can be suspended to do that, the AG punted back to the Department of Human Resources saying that's their role. Yesterday it was announced that Hawaii experienced its 4th death and identified 32 new cases which brings the total to 351. Since the start of the outbreak, 19 cases have required hospitalization. Officials are formalizing a statewide policy on wearing protective masks.	protective masks: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/05/hawaii-news/lawmakers-discuss-more-crackdowns-as-hawaii-records-its-fourth-covid-19-death/
4/4/20	Going against the wishes of three mayors and some outspoken legislators, Governor Ige said he will not pursue a travel ban to Hawaii, saying there are too many complications and potential unintended consequences. He continues to believe the 14-day quarantine is the best way to limit travel to Hawaii. Governor Ige is asking President Trump for use of the federal detention center to move some inmates from overcrowded state facilities in order to combat the spread of COVID-19 within the prison system. There has been pushback from prosecutors, legislators, and community members of a proposed plan by the courts to release as many as 400 inmates. In response to very pointed questions from Senators, Governor Ige has decided not to shift idle state workers still on the payroll to support other departments being overwhelmed by the COVID crisis (i.e. Department of Labor). His rationale is it would be a suspension of collective bargaining rules. Multiple Senators feel that Ige is not acting with the necessary urgency. Hawaii lost its third citizen to COVID-19 while positive cases jumped to 319, an increase of 34 from the previous day. While the number of new cases continues to increase, officials are cautiously optimistic that they aren't doubling or tripling by the day, a possible indication that the curve is flattening. Even if this is the case, the problem will get worse before it gets better, with Ige calling this a "marathon." Ige also activated up to 250 national guard troops to help with airport screenings and other tasks.	Governor Ige decides not to pursue a travel ban to Hawaii with President Trump: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/gov-ige-banning-air-travel-to-hawaii-is-impossible-to-enforce/ Ige asking Trump for authorization to move inmates from overcrowded state prisons to federal centers: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/04/hawaii-news/gov-david-ige-asks-trump-for-use-of-federal-detention-center-for-inmates/ Ige won't reassign idle state workers to support departments being overwhelmed by COVID response: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/04/hawaii-news/gov-ige-not-ready-to-reassign-idled-state-workers-on-payroll/ Hawaii now has 319 cases; 3rd individual dies due to COVID-19; Ige activates up to 250 national guard troops to support the state's efforts: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/04/hawaii-news/hawaii-national-guard-will-help-with-airport-screenings-as-the-state-records-third-coronavirus-death/
4/3/20	Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, who is becoming more frequent and vocal as the crisis grows, has urged everyone on Oahu to wear a mask in public. He points to the fact that many who carry the disease are asymptomatic and citizens in public should assume they have COVID-19 to avoid spreading it to others. The mayor did stress that masks should not be ones that could be used by healthcare workers as PPE.	Honolulu mayor asks residents to wear masks when in public: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/03/hawaii-news/oahu-residents-urged-to-wear-masks-outside-after-hawaii-marks-its-second-coronavirus-death/

	Hotels for Heroes is a new initiative launched by tourism and hotel associations. The program provides free hotel rooms to first responders and healthcare workers who want to avoid exposing their families to potential COVID-19 risks. In return the hotels receive $85 per night and can keep some of their workers employed. Public workers who are deemed essential are trying to make the case for hazard pay. Hawaii unions are notoriously strong and they are using that political might to try and influence the Governor, who they complain has had poor communication with unions during this crisis. Senators continue to be interested in how workers can be used from different departments to specifically support unemployment claims in the Department of Labor. Hawaii has its 2nd official death along with 27 new COVID-19 cases which brings the total to 285. The island of Molokai has reported its first case, which leaves Lanai as the only major island that has no known positive cases. Of the total number, 15 have required hospitalization and 73 have been deemed as recovered. More than 11,000 tests have been conducted in Hawaii thus far.	Hotels offer free rooms to first responders and healthcare workers to protect families from COVID-19 risks: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/03/hawaii-news/new-duties-keep-hawaii-tourism-employees-working/ Public workers deemed essential seek hazard pay and better communication from Governor Ige: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-public-workers-want-hazard-pay-during-coronavirus-pandemic/ 2nd COVID-19 death reported; 285 cases total; Molokai reports first positive case; 11,000 total tests conducted: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-reports-27-new-covid-19-infection-cases/
4/2/20	The mayors of Kauai and Maui County joined the Honolulu mayor in sending a letter to President Trump asking him to shut down all non-essential travel to Hawaii. Also on the county level, all nine Honolulu councilmembers are urging the courts to not release what may be as many as 426 inmates to lessen the overpopulated prison numbers and reduce COVID-19 spread. They join the Attorney General and three of the four county prosecutors in expressing serious concerns about this potential action. The Department of Labor released the official job loss numbers for March and they were staggering. Over 160,000 individuals filed for unemployment. The system has been able to handle that type of volume, both online and through the call center. Wait and response times have been criticized. Officials say improvements have been made, but there are still community complaints about the inefficiency of the process. The Department is no longer providing an estimated wait time but has reallocated 45 employees to support the influx of unemployment claims. Hawaii reported 34 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday, the highest number yet. Projections from the University of Washington model suggest Hawaii could see over 370 casualties with a spike in early May. The Governor pushed back on that model saying it doesn't account for the strong action the state took in respect to the travel quarantine. Still, Department of Health officials	3 of 4 mayors ask President Trump to shut down all non-essential travel to Hawaii: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/01/breaking-news/three-hawaii-mayors-ask-trump-to-stop-all-incoming-non-essential-travel/ Growing number of officials opposed to releasing inmates to prevent prison COVID-19 spread: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/02/hawaii-news/officials-weigh-the-motion-to-release-426-inmates-to-curb-the-spread-of-covid-19/ Department of Labor struggling to keep up with 160,000 filed unemployment claims in March: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/02/hawaii-news/unemployment-filings-in-march-top-160000/ 34 new COVID-19 cases confirmed in Hawaii, total now at 258; officials warn the worst is still yet to come: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/02/hawaii-news/hawaii-sets-new-high-for-covid-19-cases-but-officials-say-it-likely-will-get-worse/

	believe Hawaii is at an early stage in fighting the pandemic and that things will get worse before it gets better.	
4/1/20	Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell has drafted a letter for President Trump, requesting the federal government shuts down travel to Hawaii. Even though the numbers have dwindled, he's upset that people are still flying to Hawaii and are under the honor system to self-quarantine. Mayor Caldwell, along with the Honolulu Police Chief, are publicly opposing the plan to release inmates as a strategy to combat COVID-19 in the prison system. Their argument is this would trigger an increase in crime at the worst possible time. Also, in terms of law enforcement, Honolulu police have issued 1,500 warnings and 800 citations for individuals violating the stay at home order. Officials believe these next several days are key in flattening the curve in Hawaii, with the Lt. Governor citing April 10 as a key date to assess how successful the Governor's orders have been. Leaders continue to promote social distancing while enforcing the stay at home and travel quarantine orders. There are some who believe that the curve can flatten to the point where some return to normal life could begin in May. Department of Health officials have declared Hawaii had its first COVID-19 death (after falsely reporting the same thing earlier in March). There are 20 new cases, bringing the statewide total to 224. The Department still does not believe community spread is occurring at a significant rate and are encouraged that the daily increase in cases has remained in the low to mid 20s and not doubling or tripling. Queen's Hospital, Hawaii's largest hospital, has reported its first case of a positive COVID-19 test for an employee.	Honolulu mayor requesting President Trump halt travel to Hawaii: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/01/hawaii-news/caldwell-wants-trump-to-stop-travel-to-isles/ Mayor, police chief oppose release of inmates: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/01/hawaii-news/mayor-caldwell-and-police-chief-oppose-release-of-jail-inmates/ Officials believe state will know impact of social distancing and emergency orders over next 10 days: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/01/hawaii-news/isle-tourism-wont-improve-until-curve-flattens/ Hawaii has its first COVID-19 death; total cases now at 224: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/hawaii-reports-first-covid-19-death/ Queen's Health System reports first positive employee test: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/31/breaking-news/the-queens-medical-center-employee-tests-positive-for-coronavirus/
3/31/20	As social distancing and emergency only protocols are in place, medical facilities are taking a big hit. As a result, hospitals are cutting services and clinics are closing, including Kaiser closing seven of its clinics on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai. Rural health clinics who rely mostly on in-person appointments and non-emergency procedures have experienced a steep decline in patient visits. Governor Ige announced that out-of-state doctors would be allowed to practice in Hawaii to support the COVID-19 effort. Governor Ige also announced that interisland travel has been added to the mandatory 14-day quarantine order starting on Wednesday. Since most of the recent positive cases have not been outside travel related, the expectation is this will help prevent widespread community spread.	Medical facilities begin closing or cutting services as COVID-19 takes the complete focus of the state: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/covid-19-is-taking-a-big-toll-on-other-types-of-health-care/ Interisland quarantine order announced for the month of April: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/31/hawaii-news/interisland-quarantine-starts-wednesday/ Unemployment expected to hit 25% as economists predict a long road to economic recovery: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/31/hawaii-

	Top economists in the state are projecting that unemployment will hit 25% as Hawaii's economy continues to free fall. Even if the health crisis passes relatively quickly, the road to economic recovery will be long. The Department of Labor Director compared the huge increase of unemployment claims to "fighting a wildfire with a squirt gun." The over $4 billion of federal stimulus money will help but economists believe the state needs to begin plans to reopen the economy to mitigate the damage as much as possible. Positive COVID-19 cases have now surpassed 200. Two individuals are on life support, and another six are in ICU. Approximately 60 of the confirmed cases have recovered. Through the help of private labs, the state can now conduct up to 1,500 tests a day, which is the third-highest rate in the nation according to state officials. Lt. Governor Green estimates the peak of positive cases is still weeks away and continues to push social distancing.	news/hawaii-unemployment-could-soar-to-25-before-recovery-begins/ 204 confirmed cases; Hawaii testing structure now strong: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/31/hawaii-news/child-is-among-204-cases-in-hawaii/
3/30/20	Housing continues to be an escalating concern as approximately 100,000 people have lost their job in the past month. Though state and federal unemployment payments will help, in one of the most expensive housing markets in the country, for many it will not be enough. Banks have begun implementing up to 6 months of deferred or partial payment mortgage programs. The state is also looking into whether it has the authority to halt foreclosures and evictions for not paying rent. Grocery stores and restaurants have come up with ways to promote social distancing, which includes staggering registers, special hours for seniors, protective shields at registers, limiting menus to speed up service, etc. Courts have also needed to get creative to support the COVID-19 efforts. In addition to many courtrooms being closed until April 30, there has been an increased number of remote hearings for civil cases. Estimates are that 60-70% of judicial employees are teleworking. Hawaii now has 175 confirmed cases of COVID-19, an increase of 24 from the previous day. None of the new cases required hospitalization. This past weekend on Oahu, a private lab screened over 2,200 individuals and conducted over 550 tests via two drive-thru locations.	Housing woes escalate: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/30/hawaii-news/housing-woes-escalate/ Food-related businesses make changes to support social distancing: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/30/hawaii-news/businesses-continue-changing-with-growing-coronavirus-outbreak/ Courts get creative to keep some cases moving: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/30/hawaii-news/courts-getting-creative-to-keep-some-cases-moving/ Hawaii up to 175 cases; drive-thru screening and testing conducted over the weekend: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/hawaii-coronavirus-cases-now-at-175/
3/29/20	In a clear sign the travel quarantine has had a chilling effect on tourism, Waikiki is a "ghost town." On Friday, reports are that only 159 total visitors came to Hawaii. More than 100 hotels statewide have temporarily closed their doors. For those that remain open, occupancy is extremely low.	Waikiki has emptied out: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/29/hawaii-news/once-filled-with-visitors-waikiki-has-turned-into-a-ghost-town/

	While this is a positive development for combating the spread of COVID-19, small businesses are being hit extremely hard. Many are shutting down, citing the carrying costs of staff and food far exceeds the revenue being generated in the last few weeks. Some are hoping the new federal stimulus package will help keep their business afloat while the travel quarantine and stay at home orders are in place. In the largest jump in confirmed cases to date, 29 new COVID-19 cases bring Hawaii's new total to 151. Despite these rising numbers, the Director of Health believes there's still no evidence of growing community spread and the State Epidemiologist is more focused on the dwindling numbers of visitors to Hawaii, believing that is the greatest chance to flatten the curve along with social distancing.	Small businesses hope federal stimulus will keep them afloat: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/will-feds-relief-package-be-enough-to-keep-hawaiis-small-businesses-afloat/ US Senator Brian Schatz releases guide for small businesses looking for support from the feds: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/28/hawaii-news/sen-schatz-releases-guide-for-small-businesses-looking-for-relief-in-2-trillion-cares-act/ 29 new cases bring total to 151 in Hawaii: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/hawaii-reports-29-new-covid-19-cases-the-largest-jump-in-a-single-day/
3/28/20	Hawaii officials are moving closer to restricting travel between islands and conducting temperature checks for arriving passengers as they increase the urgency in fighting COVID-19. One major concern is cargo planes since neighbor islands rely heavily on goods being transported from Oahu. According to General Hara, leaders in Taiwan who have implemented an airport temperature check estimate that it resulted in a 40% success rate in identifying positive COVID-19 cases. Members of the business, education, medical, and non-profit communities are stepping up to help with the shortage of masks and other protective equipment. From rotary clubs, to girl scout troops, to acupuncturists, to high school 3-D printing labs, many are doing what they can to help the first responders stay safe. One criticism of the COVID-19 response in Hawaii is the length of time between testing and results. What was initially thought to take 3 to 5 days is often taking 2 weeks. One primary reason for that is private labs have needed to ship tests to the mainland, obviously adding to the time it takes to receive results. In response, private labs are now able to test in-house and on-island, so the expectation is results will come more quickly. Drive-thru testing will continue this weekend with locations in urban Honolulu and central Oahu. Hawaii now has 120 COVID-19 cases, which is 14 more from the previous day. Oahu continues to have most of the cases with 87. On a positive note, arrivals by air are down 87% from the same time last year, which officials hope will play a large role in flattening the curve for Hawaii.	Hawaii moving closer to interisland travel restriction, temperature checks at airports: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/28/hawaii-news/hawaii-authorities-push-to-restrict-neighbor-island-air-travel-and-take-passengers-temperatures/ Community members step up to help provide protective gear to first responders: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/28/hawaii-news/scores-answer-call-in-response-to-hawaiis-gear-shortage-during-coronavirus-crisis/ Private labs now able to test locally, which should reduce the wait time for patients waiting for results: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/many-covid-19-test-results-are-taking-two-weeks-to-get-back/ Two drive-thru testing sites on Oahu this weekend: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/27/breaking-news/drive-thru-coronavirus-testing-sites-coming-to-kakaako-and-waipio-this-weekend/ Hawaii up to 120 positive COVID-19 cases: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/hawaii-covid-19-case-count-hits-120/

3/27/20	Yesterday was the start of the state's mandatory 14-day quarantine for all visitors and residents coming to Hawaii. On the positive side, visitor arrivals have declined significantly. What is yet to be determined is how successful the 14-day quarantine is in stopping the spread because it's largely based on the honor system. It is unrealistic to have hotel workers or law enforcement enforce the quarantine, so while the quarantine is working by deterring visitors from coming to Hawaii, those who still choose to come will be trusted to self-quarantine (along with residents returning home to Hawaii). Honolulu Police have issued 70 citations and made 2 arrests as part of the ramped-up enforcement of the stay at home order from elected leaders. Neighbor island law enforcement have also increased enforcement, with Kauai being the most aggressive by setting up road checkpoints. For March thus far, new unemployment claims are now at almost 83,000. For all of 2019, that number was 18,000. State officials know that the $594 million unemployment fund will be depleted quickly but are confident there are safety nets in place that money will be there as the crisis continues. Hawaii has 11 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the total to 106. Of that number, 7 have required hospitalization with all but one being released. There is more evidence that community spread is happening on a small scale at this point. Officials are bracing for a surge in positive tests and looking into alternate healthcare sites for overburdened hospitals.	14-day travel quarantine goes into effect, relying on honor system: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/27/hawaii-news/arriving-passengers-face-14-days-of-mandatory-self-isolation/ Law enforcement begins issuing citations and making arrests: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/27/hawaii-news/honolulu-police-issue-70-citations-as-stay-at-home-orders-are-enforced-statewide/ As unemployment continues to spike, state officials are confident that money will be there to pay claims: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/27/hawaii-news/state-unemployment-fund-will-run-out-but-safety-net-awaits/ COVID-19 cases now up to 106; officials bracing for a surge and looking for alternate healthcare sites: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/26/hawaii-news/hawaii-confirmed-coronavirus-cases-rise-to-106/
3/26/20	After yesterday's news of rumored discord between the Governor and Lt. Governor, Ige held a press conference to deny any issues and reaffirm that Lt. Governor Green is still a key part of the state's response. His role is to prepare the state for any surge in COVID-19 cases. The state also announced efforts to mitigate the financial blow of coronavirus, including mortgage deferral payments on Hawaiian Homelands, extending the deadline for high school seniors to apply to the University of Hawaii, and continuing other departmental programs related to food stamps, childcare, Medicaid, etc. Hawaii's unemployment rate has topped 10%, with federal and local leaders urging the passage of a stimulus package to supplement state unemployment benefits. Also, the Hawaii Convention Center and its 1.1 million square feet of now mostly unused space is offering to support the state by repurposing part of the center into hotel space. State leaders are also looking into the convention center as a potential medical overflow option if needed.	State is offering financial help: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/26/hawaii-news/state-offering-financial-help/ State unemployment is over 10%, with 58,000 out of work: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/26/hawaii-news/hawaii-jobless-rate-tops-10-with-58000-out-of-work/ Hawaii Convention Center being looked at for hotel repurposing, possible medical overflow site: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/26/hawaii-news/visitor-industry-is-ready-to-help-with-crisis/

	The Director of the Department of Health told a special committee of the state senate that Hawaii should prepare for the COVID-19 threat to last for 4-5 months, with the peak of the outbreak still yet to hit. The Director also announced Hawaii now has 95 confirmed cases. There have been 4,658 tests completed, and all but 379 of those cases were done by private labs.	Hawaii up to 95 cases; expect the threat to last 4-5 months: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/26/hawaii-news/state-health-officials-projecting-the-effects-of-covid-19-in-hawaii-could-last-months/
3/25/20	There is rumored discord within the Ige Administration. Sources are sharing that Lt. Governor Josh Green, a medical doctor who has been outspoken with his opinion (and sometimes criticism) of the state's COVID-19 response, has been banned from the COVID team. He has recently been critical of the lack of testing by the Department of Health. Weeks ago, Ige had Green leading the effort and now he appears to be on the sidelines. The Governor denies that the Lt. Governor has been banned, saying that he's keeping the team small and using the experts the situation requires at the time. Critics of Ige are upset that if true, the Administration is wasting the expertise of a medical doctor. Critics of Green believe he's not being a team player and already has his eye on the 2022 gubernatorial election. The Department of Education (DOE) announced that public schools will be closed until at least April 30 and move to online learning. They were criticized for previously requiring teachers and students to report back to the classroom on April 7. The DOE is currently providing breakfast and lunch to students in need. The University of Hawaii system had already made the decision to move to distance learning, with last Monday being the first day of online instruction for 50,000 students and 10,000 teachers. Students with nowhere to go have been allowed to stay in the dorms. The economy continues to take a major hit as the visitor industry has come to a virtual halt. In addition to the sharp reduction in flights coming to Hawaii, at least 40 hotels have temporarily closed or plan to close shortly across all the major islands. Since March 1, the state has received over 40,000 new unemployment claims. Hawaii is now at 90 confirmed cases, a one-day increase of 14. One of the new cases is a healthcare worker on Maui, which has intensified calls from hospitals to the government to get more personal protective equipment for staff. Also, the Department of Health was forced to apologize after yesterday's announcement of the first COVID-19 related death in Hawaii turned out to be false. They said the error was misreading a report internally.	Lt. Governor Green rumored to be banned from the COVID-19 response team: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/hawaii-lt-gov-josh-green-banned-from-states-virus-response-effort/ Criticism continues of the lack of testing from the Department of Health: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/hawaii-doctors-battle-state-health-department-over-covid-19-testing/ The Department of Education extends public school closure until at least April 30: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/24/hawaii-news/hawaii-public-schools-closure-extended-to-april-30/ The University of Hawaii moves to online instruction: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/25/hawaii-news/campus-is-dead-uh-president-says/ Economy on the decline as unemployment rises quickly: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/25/hawaii-news/major-hotels-close-across-the-state-job-losses-mount-to-more-than-40000-since-mid-february/ Number of cases rises to 90; Department of Health apologizes after falsely reporting Hawaii's first COVID-related death: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/25/hawaii-news/hawaii-covid-19-cases-rise-death-reclassified/
3/24/20	Governor Ige issued a statewide order to "stay at home and work at home." Like Oahu and Maui before, there are many business exemptions. With all	Governor announces statewide order: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/24/hawaii-

	but one county already instituting a similar order, this will provide consistency statewide. Ige also extended the personal and corporate state tax filing deadline from April 20 to July 20. Major shopping malls, grocery stores, banks, etc. have adjusted their hours, workforce, and customer interaction. Hawaii experienced its greatest jump in confirmed cases to date, with 21 new cases bringing the total to 77. The previously announced largest increase was 11 cases. We now have 4 hospitalizations. There's been an average of about 70 emergency calls a day related to the virus, with officials urging the community to please use discretion when calling 9-1-1. And unfortunately, Hawaii now has its first confirmed death due to COVID-19. The Mayor of Honolulu said that without drastic action, the state could see up to 45,000 cases by the end of April. The hope is the statewide order and 14-day travel quarantine is the drastic action that's needed.	news/ige-announces-statewide-business-travel-restrictions-to-limit-virus-spread/ Full text of statewide order: https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/03/24/full-read-governors-stay-at-home-emergency-proclamation/ Major retail centers begin to limit shopping: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/24/hawaii-news/ala-moana-pearlridge-limit-shopping-for-essentials-only/ Hawaii up to 77 cases; first confirmed death: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/23/breaking-news/coronavirus-cases-in-hawaii-jump-to-77/
3/23/20	Yesterday afternoon, Honolulu County, Maui County, and Kauai County all issued similar "stay at home and work at home" orders. Governor Ige supported these announcements, saying he wanted the county mayors to decide what is best for their respective islands while his Administration works on a statewide order. The Honolulu order ends on April 30, though Mayor Caldwell said he expects it to be extended. There are 26 business categories that are exempt from this order, including grocers, banks, restaurants (take-out/delivery), educational institutions, and businesses that supply products/services needed by people who work from home. The full list is in the first link on the right; it exempts a wide range of industries. Hawaiian Airlines announced they will suspend all long-haul flights and reduce the number of interisland flights in support of the proclamation to shut down tourism until the COVID-19 outbreak is under control. County prosecutors are considering adjustments to the way they charge defendants to reduce overcrowding and combat the spread of COVID-19 throughout the prison system (and to prison staff), mirroring similar efforts in New York City and Los Angeles County. There were 8 additional confirmed cases, bringing Hawaii's total to 56. The Department of Health maintained there's still no evidence of significant community spread but acknowledged that things are rapidly changing.	Emergency "stay at home and work at home" orders on Oahu and Maui; many business categories are exempt (proclamation with full exemption list is in the link): https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/23/hawaii-news/emergency-stay-in-place-orders-issued-for-honolulu-and-maui/ Hawaiian Airlines reduces flights: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/23/hawaii-news/hawaiian-airlines-to-cease-most-flights/ Prosecutors adjusting how they charge defendants to reduce prison overpopulation: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/hawaii-prosecutors-retool-policies-to-avoid-filling-up-jails-during-pandemic/ 8 more confirmed cases: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/23/hawaii-news/8-more-cases-in-hawaii-for-total-of-56/

3/22/20	Hawaii became the first state to institute a 14-day travel quarantine, meaning any resident or visitor returning to Hawaii must shelter-in-place for two weeks. The hope is that will essentially halt tourism. Despite this step, many in the community believe this does not go far enough, continuing to call upon Governor Ige to mandate the entire state to shelter-in-place. Ige's response is that those measures are drastic and should only be used when there's widespread community spread, which he believes Hawaii does not have at this time. Critics say why wait for it to get to that point. In Urban Honolulu, free COVID-19 tests were offered via drive-thru. Over 2,200 people sought the test, but only 405 were administered the test because they met the criteria for at-risk. Maui County plans to do a similar free test clinic on Monday. The state's top economists paint a very dreary picture for Hawaii's economy going forward. Most agree it will take federal support to return to economic stability. Some argue that the most immediate triage response the state can do is to put money into the hands of those who need to spend it the most. They warn that even when the COVID-19 scare goes down, there still need to be screening measures in place because Hawaii is a global tourist destination and visitors must be confident that Hawaii is a safe environment. It's unlikely there will be a quick return to prior tourism numbers. There were 11 more confirmed cases yesterday, bringing our total to 48. There are 4 positive cases from US Army members stationed in Hawaii. Oahu continues to have the bulk of the cases with 35 confirmed. It is being reported that only 3 of the 48 confirmed cases have required hospitalization.	State imposes a 14-day travel quarantine: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/22/hawaii-news/14-day-quarantine-to-begin-thursday-for-arrivals-to-isles/ Governor's Quarantine Proclamation full text: https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/2003152-ATG_Second-Supplementary-Proclamation-for-COVID-19-signed.pdf Free drive-thru testing in Honolulu: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/22/hawaii-news/more-than-2200-line-up-for-free-coronavirus-testing/ State economists are concerned about Hawaii's long road to recovery: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/22/hawaii-news/economists-ponder-hawaiis-road-to-economic-recovery/ Hawaii up to 48 confirmed cases: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/number-of-hawaii-coronavirus-cases-rises-to-48/
3/21/20	The Hawaii State Senate has joined the State House in asking Governor Ige to impose more drastic measures to combat COVID-19, including having residents' shelter in place for two weeks. Elected officials from Hawaii County sent a letter to Mayor Harry Kim asking him to take the pandemic more seriously. Hawaii County has been the most resistant of the four counties to impose shutdowns and bans. The Chamber of Commerce sent Governor Ige a letter requesting a more coherent message from the Administration and asking for more aggressive action to support small businesses, including suggested steps. Hotel industry leaders have also been in touch with the Administration seeking support. Estimates range from 25% to 75% for hotel job loss over the next six months.	State Senate calls upon Ige to act with more urgency: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/20/breaking-news/hawaii-county-lawmakers-implore-mayor-kim-to-order-15-days-of-shelter-in-place/ Chamber of Commerce outreach: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/20/breaking-news/chamber-of-commerce-of-hawaii-pushes-gov-david-ige-to-take-action-to-aid-small-businesses/ Hotel industry outreach: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/21/hawaii-news/hawaii-hotel-industry-seeking-assistance/

	Hawaii now has 37 confirmed cases of COVID-19, which is up from 16 just a couple of days ago. In addition, Department of Health officials announced that 2 of the cases officially confirm that community spread is now occurring. Testing has improved in recent days with the support of private labs.	Hawaii up to 37 cases; community spread confirmed: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/20/hawaii-news/hawaiis-confirmed-coronavirus-cases-climb-to-37-up-11-from-thursday/
3/20/20	Speaker of the House Scott Saiki, on behalf of his members, wrote a letter to Governor Ige to call out the state's "utterly chaotic" handling of the COVID-19 response. In addition, he called on the Governor to institute an immediate 15-day statewide shutdown, order everyone to shelter-in-place, quarantine all travelers arriving to Hawaii for 15 days, and close all schools and daycare centers. The Governor's team replied that he's looking into all options. As a result of conversations with Lt. Governor Josh Green and the state senate, Hawaii airports will begin a mandatory 14-day quarantine for both residents and visitors coming to all islands. State Senator Clarence Nishihara is the first known elected official to be diagnosed with COVID-19. As a result, the state capitol has shut down with legislators and staff all being told to work remotely. Numerous tests of legislators and staff were conducted; the results of those tests could play a role in determining how the remainder of the legislative session unfolds. As of yesterday, there are 26 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hawaii, which is 10 more than the previous day. There are serious concerns that number is much higher, in part because of a slow response from the Department of Health that Lt. Governor Green called a "total fail."	Speaker of the House Urges Action: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/19/hawaii-news/house-speaker-urges-ige-to-shut-down-the-state-for-15-days/ Mandatory travel quarantine: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/19/breaking-news/hawaii-airports-to-mandate-14-day-home-quarantine-for-residents-visitors/ State Senator Clarence Nishihara tests positive for COVID-19: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/20/hawaii-news/sen-nishihara-in-quarantine-as-legislature-closes-indefinitely/ 26 confirmed cases in Hawaii: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/doh-testing-in-hawaii-for-covid-19-remains-deliberately-narrow/
3/19/20	Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell has ordered all restaurants and bars to close or move to take-out, drive-thru, or delivery only. The Honolulu Police Department has said they are ready to enforce. In addition, all city-run facilities will close until at least April 30. The Honolulu City Council approved a bill that allows the Mayor to tap into a "rainy day fund," which is approximately $126 million. As for other islands, Kauai Mayor Derek Kawakami announced that effective Friday, there will be a curfew enforced between 9 PM and 5 AM, with penalties including fines and jail time. Maui County implemented similar measures as Oahu. Hawaii County is not taking similar measures as the other three counties as this point, allowing restaurants to remain open and not discouraging tourism.	Honolulu Mayor announces closures: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/19/hawaii-news/caldwell-orders-restaurants-closed-except-for-takeout-drive-thru-and-delivery/ Non-Oahu county actions: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/19/hawaii-news/counties-implement-their-own-restrictions/ Medical and healthcare professionals ask Governor Ige to implement more extreme social distancing measures: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/18/hawaii-news/medical-professionals-ask-gov-david-ige-to-mandate-extreme-social-distancing-measures/

	A major concern is that historically, Hawaii is short on hospital beds. If/when the spread grows, hospitals are not prepared to handle a major spike in admissions. While some hospitals are working on creative ways to expand their ability to serve patients, it is a serious concern if the number of cases grow as expected. To date, there are 16 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Hawaii, all of them travel related, so at this point there is no evidence of "community spread."	Are local hospitals prepared for a pandemic: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/03/are-hawaii-hospitals-prepared-for-a-pandemic/
3/18/20	Yesterday, Governor Ige held a press conference to announce that he's "strongly urging" all bars, clubs, visitor attractions, entertainment centers, etc. to close, while restaurants move to take-out only. He asked that all prospective visitors to Hawaii postpone their trips for at least 30 days. For the next 15 days, all non-essential state department employees will be asked to work from home; the Governor hopes the private sector follows suit. The supply chain of goods being shipped to Hawaii is operating as usual, so authorities are pleading with the community to stop hoarding items. A current point of controversy is K-12 public schools. Many private schools have moved to distance learning. The University of Hawaii is online-only. But the Governor and Superintendent have only extended public school spring break for 1 week, and at this point the plan is for teachers and students to practice "social distancing" and resume school. This is being met with opposition, especially from teachers. The teacher's union (HSTA) has filed a grievance. Early projections are the state is headed towards a serious recession, with projections of revenue down as much as $300 million. There's also the assumption that thousands of jobs will be lost. Adjunct General Kenneth Hara is the "incident commander" leading the state's COVID-19 efforts, along with the Governor, Department of Health Director Bruce Anderson, and Lt. Governor Josh Green (who is a medical doctor).	Governor's Press Conference Full Text: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/17/breaking-news/full-text-of-gov-david-iges-announcement-of-aggressive-action-to-fight-coronavirus/ Highlight's from the Press Conference: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/18/hawaii-news/ige-calls-for-tourism-halt-for-30-days/ Potential Job Loss: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/18/hawaii-news/tourism-shocks-could-cost-tens-of-thousands-of-jobs/ Teacher's Union Files Grievance: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/17/breaking-news/hsta-files-grievance-over-hawaii-does-plan-to-call-teachers-back-next-week/