COVID-19 Update Log, May 20, 2020

Hawaii Public Policy Advocates/Hawaii Dental Association

Date	COVID-19 Update	Links
5/20/20	Lawmakers are choosing to stash more than $1.6 billion of federal and state funds in the "rainy day" reserve budget, which has drawn public criticism from at least one legislator. State Senator Laura Thielen, who is not running for reelection, said she is "ashamed" the legislature did not do more with the money to help the most vulnerable populations with acute immediate needs. She cited a handful of states that used CARES Act money to create grants that support non-profits serving populations in need. While travel-related job loss has hit hard nationwide, Hawaii has been particularly impacted. With tourism making up 17% of Hawaii's GDP and supporting approximately 216,000 jobs statewide, the virtual shutdown of air travel and hotel use has crippled the economy and put tremendous stress on the unemployment system. On a positive note, unemployment claims are being processed quicker and checks are being mailed timelier. Oahu officials announced a partnership with the University of Hawaii, two private labs, and seven community health centers to test what they hope is more than 100,000 people. Mayor Kirk Caldwell said that in part due to ramped up testing, interisland travel may be allowed again by either late-May or mid-June. There was one new positive COVID-19 case. To date, 578 of the 641 total cases have been released from isolation and only 82 of all cases have required hospitalization.	Lawmaker criticizes legislature for not addressing more urgent social needs: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/20/hawaii-news/despite-urgent-social-needs-legislators-decide-to-bank-state-and-federal-funds/ Loss of tourism is crippling Hawaii's economy and job market: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/20/hawaii-news/covid-19-related-u-s-travel-job-losses-double-national-unemployment-at-the-height-of-the-great-depression/ Oahu creates diverse partnership to hopefully test more than 100,000 people; interisland travel possibly resuming in the next few weeks: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/20/hawaii-news/honolulu-creates-partnership-to-increase-coronavirus-testing/ One new positive case: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/19/breaking-news/one-new-big-island-coronavirus-case-raises-statewide-total-to-641/
5/19/20	Governor Ige unveiled his four-phase plan to reopen the economy based on risk factors. Of note, medium-risk businesses are reported to be allowed to reopen at some point in June, though county mayors will have the final say on when. Examples of medium-risk businesses include restaurants, hair salons, gyms, theaters, museums, and churches. All businesses will be required to enforce masks, social distancing, and sanitation standards. In his 8th supplemental proclamation, the Governor extended the 14-day quarantine, including interisland travel, through June. Governor Ige faces the dilemma of managing the state's expectations on positive COVID-19 cases with reopening the tourism economy, which is the	Governor Ige unveils plan to reopen medium-risk businesses in June; extends 14-day travel quarantine through June: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/18/hawaii-news/gov-david-ige-unveils-four-phase-reopening-strategy-for-hawaiis-economy/ Governor Ige maps out plan to "live with COVID": https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/ige-maps-out-a-reopening-plan-allowing-hawaii-to-live-with-covid-19/

	only sure way to revitalize the economy quickly. Clearly the more things reopen, more positive cases will occur. And while it's clear domestic and international travel will be one of the last things to fully reopen, messaging from the Administration has already begun to let the public know that COVID-19 will not disappear and to expect living with it in our community. Legislative leaders are not ready to sign-off on the bill to shore up the budget shortfall as information is being sought as to how many departmental position vacancies truly exist. That part of the new budget bill made up around $200 million of savings, but top lawmakers have heard from departments that the numbers they previously provided may not be accurate. Lawmakers are quickly working with department heads to determine which positions are truly vacant. There were no new positive cases of COVID-19 yesterday and the total count remains at 640.	Governor Ige faces dilemma of reopening tourism economy to stimulate economy while managing community's expectations on low positive cases: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/19/hawaii-news/ige-faces-the-dilemma-of-eventually-reopening-to-both-tourists-and-new-infections/ Legislative leaders still working with department heads on determining which positions are truly vacant in order to shore up around $200 million of the budget shortfall: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/lawmakers-still-eyeing-vacant-positions-to-fill-state-budget-hole/ No new positive COVID-19 cases: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/coronavirus-daily-news-hawaii/
5/18/20	Local small businesses continue to seek and receive support from the federal PPP loans. During the recent second round of loans, just over 10,000 Hawaii businesses received $487 million of potentially forgivable loans. By comparison, almost 12,000 Hawaii businesses received $2.05 billion of loans in April. The average PPP loan during the April round was $177,000 and it is estimated that around 11,000 Hawaii businesses applied for and were denied PPP funding. Local industry leaders believe this May round of funding is supporting more "mom-and-pop" businesses. One industry that has seen a rise in demand is makers of locally sourced produce, specifically those that provide pickup and delivery. The shutdown of hotels has significantly hurt the industry as a whole, but the smaller, more niche businesses have seen an increase in demand. There was only one new COVID-19 case reported in Hawaii. However, visitor arrivals continue to grow as nearly 300 out-of-state visitors arrived in Hawaii on Saturday. All are subject to a 14-day quarantine, where there have been mixed results on compliance.	Hawaii small businesses receive a second round of PPP funding: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/18/hawaii-news/second-round-of-federal-small-business-aid-flows-to-over-10000-hawaii-companies/ Small local produce businesses see a spike in demand: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/18/hawaii-news/consumers-turn-toward-local-produce/ Nearly 300 out-of-state visitors arrived on Saturday: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/17/breaking-news/nearly-300-out-of-state-visitors-came-to-hawaii-by-air-saturday/ One new positive COVID-19 case: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/one-new-covid-19-case-reported-on-the-big-island/
5/17/20	On Oahu, between malls and retail reopening on Friday and beaches reopening on Saturday, some slight normalcy has started to return. The larger crowds made it difficult to strictly adhere to the social distancing standards, and lifeguards reported made nearly 300 rescues. Officials will look back on this period of time to see how sharply, if at all, the number of positive cases spike due to loosened restrictions.	Beaches reopen as thousands return to mixed results of compliance with social distancing: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/17/hawaii-news/beaches-reopen-to-immense-joy-from-weeks-long-isolated-residents/

	Vacation rental owners are struggling to remain afloat as demand has basically disappeared and they lack the same access to government bailouts that hotel corporations have. While some have optimism that demand will return when restrictions are loosened, others believe they will not be able to hold on until that unspecified time. In addition, state senators are working on forms that vacation rental and homeowners must sign to take responsibility for travelers quarantining in their homes and face penalties if quarantine is broken. Small businesses in other industries have been able to remain afloat due to federal funds, but they will not be able to survive on those monies much longer. There were two new positive cases of COVID-19 reported. The total is now at 639, with about 90% of all total cases now in recovery.	Vacation rental industry struggling to survive as demand has basically disappeared: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/17/hawaii-news/covid-19-restrictions-imperil-hawaii-vacation-rentals/ Small businesses benefiting from federal relief funds: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/17/hawaii-news/federal-relief-funds-keep-local-businesses-afloat/ Two new cases reported: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/hawaii-reports-2-new-covid-19-cases/
5/16/20	The legislature's decision to not fund the Office of the Economic Navigator leaves the future of the effort in doubt. Governor Ige believe in its importance and pledged to support it through other means. Top lawmakers felt the $10 million appropriation, most of which was going to out-of-state consultants, was a waste of money and the responsibility for charting Hawaii's economic future should fall to the Department of Economic Development, Business, and Tourism. The legislature did provide the Department of Transportation with $36 million for a public health screening system at state airports, along with $635 million for future unemployment claims needs from CARES Act money. Pre-pandemic, the state's unemployment fund had $550 million but it will be depleted by the end of June. A key requirement for the airport screening funding is the process will take place immediately as passengers deplane, reducing the time and risk of sick individuals wandering throughout the airport before being identified and placed in quarantine protocol. Mayor Kirk Caldwell announced that starting today, Oahu will reopen outdoor courts, playing fields, and beaches. Residents will be allowed to gather at beaches with household members in groups no larger than 10 people while adhering to social distancing requirements. In addition, Mayor Caldwell announced that dine-in restaurants will be allowed to reopen on June 5 with yet to be announced restrictions. There was one new positive COVID-19 case yesterday as the state's top officials declare the curve has flattened. There were no new reported	Economic Navigator funding request denied; airports to get $36 million for passenger health screenings: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/16/hawaii-news/36m-approved-for-hawaii-airport-public-health-screening-system/ $635 million of federal funding to be allocated for future unemployment claim needs: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/15/hawaii-news/hawaii-lawmakers-working-to-set-aside-635m-in-federal-funds-to-boost-unemployment-insurance-fund/ Starting today, Mayor Caldwell reopens Oahu beaches: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/16/hawaii-news/oahu-beaches-outdoor-courts-and-playing-fields-officially-open-today/ Starting June 5, Oahu dine-in restaurants allowed to reopen with restrictions: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/15/breaking-news/oahu-restaurants-can-reopen-for-in-house-dining-june-5-mayor-says/ One new positive COVID-19 case: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/1-new-covid-19-case-on-the-big-island/

	deaths or hospitalizations. Since the start of the pandemic in Hawaii, there have been 81 total hospitalizations and 17 total COVID-19 related deaths.	
5/15/20	As retailers on Oahu begin to reopen today, Governor Ige plans to extend his "safer-at-home" order through June 30. The Governor said the next round of businesses to reopen, likely in June, will include dine-in restaurants and hair salons with social distancing requirements. Oahu's mayor is asking the Governor to reopen restaurants and beaches on June 5. As visitors continue coming to Hawaii and mandatory quarantines continue to be broken, state and county officials are pointing their fingers at each other for the problem. Points of contention continue to be the airport screening process, capacity for testing and contact tracing, and inability to enforce 14-day quarantines at homes and vacation rentals. The Senate money committee heard from key Administration officials on plans to spend federal CARES Act funds but left with more questions than answers. Senators continue to feel a lack of cohesion and urgency from the Governor, which could be highlighted by his Budget Director saying he still had not seeing the budget bill with plans on how to spend $862 million of federal funds. The committee plans to vote on that bill today. The Economic Navigator's written plan to reopen the economy is supposed to be released to the public, at least in part, today. Yesterday was another day of no new positive cases reported. Over the last two weeks, the number of daily new cases has been fewer than six.	Governor Ige plans to extend "safer-at-home" order through at least June 30: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/14/hawaii-news/gov-ige-plans-to-extend-safer-at-home-order-through-june-30/ State and county officials pass blame for loopholes in quarantine and enforcement process: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/15/hawaii-news/officials-pass-the-blame-for-restriction-flaws/ Senators still perplexed by Governor's teams perceived lack of urgency and cohesion: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/lawmakers-still-concerned-about-how-agencies-will-spend-federal-money/ Zero new positive COVID-19 cases reported: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/no-new-covid-19-cases-reported-in-hawaii/
5/14/20	As the economy and outdoor activities continue to slowly reopen, tourism will remain locked down for a while. Officials cite that most of Hawaii's positive cases were travel-related, so restarting the travel industry will need to be done in a safe way. Kauai has already extended the mandatory 14-day quarantine through at least June; there are many who believe Governor Ige will do the same for the rest of the state. Some in the tourism industry are getting more vocal about the need to reopen sooner rather than later. Governor Ige has slightly backed off his initial statement of a proposed 20% pay cut for public workers, saying now that it is not an "immediate need." Previously saying the cuts were on the table as early as this month, Ige said yesterday that pay cuts are the last resort. A poll conducted by a Honolulu research firm found that 64% of residents support the government's actions to combat COVID-19, while 25% oppose.	The tourism economy looks likely to remain locked down for a while: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/14/hawaii-news/hawaiis-economy-is-reopening-but-tourism-remains-on-lockdown/ Ige now says public worker pay cuts are the last resort to balance budget woes: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/14/hawaii-news/ige-says-there-is-no-immediate-need-for-public-worker-pay-cuts/ Poll results show a majority support the government's COVID-19 actions; many are still concerned about returning to restaurants, malls, etc.:

	More than half the respondents want schools and tourism to continue to be closed, while 75% said they will wait awhile before patronizing sit-down restaurants. Of great concern, 36% said the are struggling financially and 20% said they worry about having enough food to feed their family. There were 3 new positive cases associated with a newly identified cluster within an unidentified public housing complex on Oahu. More than 37,000 people have now been tested statewide.	https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/14/hawaii-news/majority-believes-hawaii-is-moving-in-right-direction-against-covid-19/ Three new positive cases; small cluster forming in public housing complex: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/3-new-covid-19-cases-confirmed-on-oahu/
5/13/20	Various key Administration departments testified in front of the House Finance committee to attempt and clear up their fiscal needs and the monies available to them from the CARES Act. The committee will privately meet today to make decisions on where the money should go and plans to vote on Senate Bill 75 tomorrow. In addition, members of the Governor's team tasked with safely and strategically reopening the economy said the plan should be released no later than the end of this week. Among other things it will create a color-coded risk chart to guide the state on how strict business and resident restrictions should be based on the spread of the disease. The plan on reshaping Hawaii's economy is also in the works. Most of Oahu's major malls and retail centers plan to reopen on Friday with reduced hours, though not every tenant will be available (or choose to) open this week. Social distancing is still encouraged and shoppers are urged to only visit stores for things they absolutely need. This will be the first big test of how residents handle loosened restrictions and the level that positive COVID-19 cases rise to. Vacation rentals, despite being non-essential, are still hosting visitors arriving to Hawaii. In comparison to hotels, who are deemed essential, the vacation rental industry has not seen as sharp a decline in business. Officials continue to seek solutions, which include punishing homeowners whose guests break quarantine and conducting random drive-by. There was only one new positive case yesterday, and officials on Kauai and Hawaii Island said their counties have no more active COVID-19 cases.	House Finance committee scrutinizes Administration's plans for spending CARES Act funding: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/lawmakers-are-deciding-how-to-spend-federal-bailout-money/ Plan to reopen economy and safety roadmap based on risk almost complete: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/13/hawaii-news/color-coded-state-recovery-plan-to-be-unveiled/ Major Oahu malls and retail centers to reopen this Friday with reduced hours and social distancing guidelines: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/13/hawaii-news/oahu-malls-and-retail-centers-plan-to-reopen-friday/ Vacation rentals continue to host visitors as lawmakers seek greater tools for quarantine enforcement: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/13/hawaii-news/vacation-rentals-use-loopholes-to-skirt-quarantine/ One new positive case; no active cases on Kauai and Hawaii Island: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/only-1-new-covid-19-case-reported-in-hawaii/
5/12/20	The 2020 legislative session resumed yesterday, with lawmakers taking up bills to deal with the budget shortfall. There is still discrepancy with what the legislature believes ($1 billion) and Administration believes ($1.5 billion) is the true deficit. Another issue that will need to be worked out by both sides is the rainy-day fund, which the legislature wants to use to help close the budget gap and Governor Ige wants to use toward unemployment	The 2020 legislative session resumes; discrepancies in budget shortfall and rainy-day fund use exists between the legislature and Governor Ige: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/back-in-session-hawaii-lawmakers-grapple-with-a-billion-dollar-budget-hole/

	payments. The House Finance committee pointed out conflicting testimony from different departments and is holding a hearing today to directly ask departments how much money they need and the reasons why. Major General Kenneth Hara, the state's lead on the COVID-19 response team, warned of possible riots if the state does not reopen the economy soon, especially the tourism economy. He said at some point, Hawaii needs to accept the risks, reopen the economy, and accept that cases will go up and the virus will exist for a while. Governor Ige disagreed with the comments of possible riots. Hara also warned about the continued risk of clusters, particularly as graduation season starts and large gatherings at parties are typically the norm. There were 2 new positive cases yesterday and no additional hospitalizations. More businesses outlined in the Governor's 7th supplemental proclamation begin to reopen this week. Maui businesses could reopen as of yesterday, Kauai and Hawaii Island on Thursday, and Oahu on Friday.	Legislative session resumes: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/12/hawaii-news/lawmakers-return-to-capitol-to-make-budget-fixes-and-avoid-furloughs/ Major General Hara warns of possible riots if the state does not reopen economy soon: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/12/hawaii-news/delay-in-reopening-economy-could-lead-to-rioting/ Two new positive cases; Maui reopened some additional businesses yesterday, Kauai and Hawaii Island on Thursday, and Oahu on Friday: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/2-new-covid-19-cases-confirmed-in-hawaii/
5/11/20	Discussions and plans continue on how to reshape Hawaii's economy for the future, one that is less reliant on tourism and more diversified. Ideally, Hawaii would market itself to higher spending tourists, lowering the number of people coming to the islands but maintaining a strong revenue stream. Other industry ideas that have been suggested to help balance the economic drivers of the state include agriculture, green energy, aerospace, and expanding broadband. While those creating the plan are open to all ideas, they make it clear that ideas are great but if there is not access to capital or a trained workforce, it will not work. Top legislators are stressing more urgency and are concerned this plan will be a regurgitation of ideas previously discussed for many years with no roadmap on how to get there. State senators are still concerned about loopholes in the state quarantine process, including visitors staying at residences. Enforcement of a 14-day quarantine outside of a hotel setting is proving to be problematic. Ideas being discussed include making it illegal to allow visitors to stay with residents, making residents liable if their guest breaks quarantine, and/or the state conducting a random drive-by to ensure quarantine compliance. There was only one new positive case yesterday and no reported deaths. The fatality count since the beginning of the crisis remains at 17, with 11 on Oahu and 6 on Maui.	Discussions and plans continue on how to diversity Hawaii's economy, become less reliant on having 10 million people visit Hawaii annually: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/11/hawaii-news/lack-of-clear-plan-to-replace-tourism-leaves-hawaiis-economic-future-in-doubt/ Senators still concerned about loopholes in 14-day quarantine, especially when the visitor stays with a local resident: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/11/hawaii-news/states-14-day-quarantine-has-loopholes/ Majority of Saturday visitors say purpose of trip is to visit with family, friends: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/10/breaking-news/majority-of-visitors-arriving-saturday-say-purpose-of-hawaii-trip-to-visit-friends-family/ One new positive case: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/hawaii-reports-1-new-covid-19-case-sunday/

5/10/20	On Friday, Hawaii had its highest number of visitor arrivals since the tourism lockdown started. Some officials hope that the latest measure in the Governor's emergency proclamation, which bans rental car companies from renting to anyone subject to the 14-day quarantine, will help to dissuade visitors from traveling to Hawaii. In addition, most hotels will issue single use keys to ensure visitors do not leave their rooms, and if they do, they will be locked out and law enforcement will be called. Ahead of tomorrow's reopening of the legislature where lawmakers plan to make up a $1 billion shortfall, social service agencies are warning officials about an upcoming surge of homelessness and the need to fund important housing and food programs going forward. The state's homeless coordinator predicts a jump in homelessness over the next 6 to 12 months that will last for years. There were 3 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday, with officials continuing to predict a rise in positive cases as more businesses begin to reopen this week. There is specific concern about residents traveling to COVID-19 "hotspots" and then returning to Hawaii.	Visitor arrivals continue to rise, while officials hope new hotel and rental car rules will thwart further growth: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/09/breaking-news/new-rules-for-quarantining-hawaii-visitors-didnt-stop-more-from-coming-friday/ Social service agencies warn of homelessness surge, need for continued funding going forward: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/10/hawaii-news/push-is-on-to-fund-programs-to-prevent-hawaiis-homelessness/ 3 new positive cases confirmed: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/3-new-covid-19-cases-in-hawaii-announced-saturday/
5/9/20	The chairs of the Senate Ways and Means and House Finance committees have a preliminary deal in place to make up the $1 billion budget shortfall that would keep the state whole until June 2021, the end of the next fiscal year. About $400 million will come from the state's rainy-day fund, $286 million from unused funds from state departments (i.e. vacant positions), and $150 million in savings from the Department of Education. Other discussions taking place next week are a possible $2 billion investment in capital improvement projects to stimulate the economy and halting some payments to the state's health plan for retirement benefits. Tax collections are way down from the Council on Revenues projections at the start of the year of 3.8% growth and are now essentially flat at 0.2%. Oahu Mayor Kirk Caldwell is criticizing the Department of Health for turning down the county's offer to support the state in testing, contact tracing, and isolation efforts. His belief is the state is not doing enough, one that is shared by Lt. Governor Josh Green. The Department said the request to ramp up testing to the suggested amount is unnecessary because a test is a "point in time analysis." The Department is working with the University of Hawaii to train 200 to 500 people with a previous medical background to help with the testing and contact tracing effort.	Legislative deal in the works to make up $1 billion shortfall: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/legislative-deal-in-the-works-would-use-untapped-funds-to-dodge-budget-cuts/ Tax collections significantly down from start of year projections: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/09/hawaii-news/tax-collections-tank-as-lawmakers-plan-budget-fixes-to-avoid-public-worker-furloughs/ Oahu Mayor and Lt. Governor believe the Department of Health is not doing enough; Department working to train hundreds of workers to help with testing, contact tracing: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/09/hawaii-news/mayor-caldwell-criticizes-states-failure-to-expand-covid-19-testing/ No new COVID-19 cases for the first time in 8 weeks: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/08/hawaii-

	For the first time in 8 weeks, there were no new positive cases of COVID-19. While this is a symbolic victory, health officials are warning the community to be prepared for an increase in positive cases as businesses begin to reopen in the coming weeks.	news/hawaii-sees-no-new-coronavirus-cases-today-for-first-time-in-8-weeks/
5/8/20	Legislative leaders officially announced that the legislature will reconvene on Monday for an expected 6-10 working day session. The priority will be shoring up the $1 billion budget shortfall, which money committee leaders are confident they will accomplish next week. The 2022 budget is the greater concern with the local and tourist economy uncertain in the coming months. While Governor Ige proposed a 20% pay cut for government employees, legislative leaders believe that is premature and prefer to make up the 2021 budget deficit through other cuts and rainy-day funds. Hawaii's chief economist believes the state may follow a similar path like the 2009 recession recovery, stating it might take the non-tourism economy two years to return to 2019 levels and the tourism economy up to six years. All continue to agree that testing, screening, tracing, etc. are the keys to ramping up tourism; others still question whether Hawaii should return to 2019 levels or use this opportunity to diversify the state's revenue. There is disagreement between state, county, and health officials about whether Hawaii is ready to reopen its economy. One of the major points against reopening now is the lack of healthcare workers needed to conduct contact testing. The Department of Health says it has enough tracers to meet the current need of new positive cases and will ramp up as needed; other key leaders believe they need to ramp up now before reopening. Legislative leaders may seek to fund this effort next week. There were 3 new positive cases yesterday. According to the CDC, Hawaii has the lowest rates of positive cases in the country per capita. Over 35,000 people have been tested so far.	Hawaii legislature reconvening on March 11th, expected to shore up the $1 billion hole in the budget: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/08/hawaii-news/lawmakers-will-return-to-the-capitol-on-monday-to-help-patch-the-huge-state-budget-hole/ State's chief economist predicts a long road to recovery, including up to six years for the tourist economy: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/08/hawaii-news/hawaiis-tourism-recovery-could-take-years-experts-say/ New requirements for travelers to Hawaii, including new forms and inspection systems: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/08/hawaii-news/new-requirements-ahead-for-arriving-passengers/ Disagreement between state, county, and health officials about whether the healthcare workforce is prepared to reopen economy, specifically around contact testing: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/is-hawaii-ready-to-reopen-the-economy-some-experts-say-not-yet/ Three new positive cases; Hawaii has lowest rate of COVID-19 cases per capita in the country: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/three-new-covid-19-infections-confirmed-on-oahu/
5/7/20	Governor Ige and Lt. Governor Green held a press conference yesterday to in part make the case as to why the local economy is beginning to reopen amidst the COVID pandemic. Hawaii has the lowest mortality rate per capita. In terms of public health resources, only 51% of the state's hospital beds are used, 46% of the ICU beds, and 14% of the ventilators. While Oahu will reopen to retail on May 15th, Maui Mayor Mike Victorino announced the county will reopen retail on Monday. Hawaii County will also reopen specific retail industries.	Governor Ige and Lt. Governor Green defend the decision to reopen portions of Hawaii's local economy: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/07/hawaii-news/ige-green-make-case-for-partial-opening-of-economy/ Maui Mayor announces guidelines for reopening retail and malls: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/06/breaking-

	Mayor Kirk Caldwell announced that Oahu property taxpayers will have more flexibility to pay their August bill. Instead of it being collected in one lump sum, taxpayers can pay over four installments with no penalties or interest. City officials also announced they anticipate a $130 million budget shortfall but have made plans to deal with it. With the Governor announcing that childcare facilities may reopen, operators are scrambling to prepare. At least 100 private facilities never closed and served essential worker's children. The remaining facilities will need to quickly implement social distancing guidelines and parceling out classrooms for smaller teacher-to-student ratios. Operators are working with families to determine if they are even comfortable sending their children back into daycare at this time or prefer waiting a few months. There was one more positive case yesterday. Of the 626 total positive cases, only 68 are still considered active cases, meaning almost 90% of all patients have recovered.	news/maui-retail-stores-to-reopen-monday-mayor-mike-victorino-announces/ Mayor Caldwell announces property taxes can be paid in installments; expects $130 million budget shortfall: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/07/hawaii-news/oahu-property-tax-payers-can-pay-in-installments/ Childcare facilities are authorized to reopen, though may must scramble to operationalize new safety standards: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/ige-says-child-care-centers-can-reopen-but-are-they-ready/ One new positive case; almost 90% of patients have recovered: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/just-1-more-covid-19-case-reported-on-oahu/
5/6/20	Governor Ige held a press conference yesterday to announced that Hawaii flattened the curve and he was allowing many more businesses to reopen starting May 7th. Despite saying that county mayors were on-board, hours later the mayor of Oahu announced that malls and retail will not reopen until May 15th and the mayor of Maui County said that malls and retail will not reopen indefinitely. The order is no longer "Stay at Home" but is now "Safer at Home." Masks are still required. It is believed that restaurants will reopen for dine-in (with modifications) later this month. One major concern is childcare, as parents are asked to return to work without schools or many childcare facilities available. Some healthcare experts believe reopening these businesses, particularly malls, is premature. They say that Hawaii is not prepared yet from a public health infrastructure standpoint in terms of contact tracing and enough healthcare workforce. The concern is people let their guards down, crowds begin to form throughout the state, and we see clusters and spikes in cases. Regardless, all involved agree that cases will increase from recent levels but the extent of that increase will guide future policy decisions. The state attorney general and three of the four county prosecutors continue to ask the State Supreme Court to halt the release of inmates which is being done as a preventative measure of spreading COVID-19 within the prison system. According to the Attorney General, seven of those	Governor Ige releases 7th proclamation, outlining a new list of businesses allowed to reopen; Oahu and Maui mayors immediately delay retail and mall reopening: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/06/hawaii-news/some-isle-malls-can-reopen-but-oahu-and-maui-must-wait/ Text of the 7th proclamation: https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/2005024-ATG_Seventh-Supplementary-Proclamation-for-COVID-19-distribution-signed-1.pdf Healthcare experts believe reopening businesses is premature: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/06/hawaii-news/health-experts-say-its-too-soon-to-reopen/ Attorney General, prosecutors ask State Supreme Court to halt inmate releases as re-offenses begin to occur: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/06/hawaii-news/attorney-general-prosecutors-want-inmate-releases-halted/

	released have already committed crimes, which in some cases were serious. The Courts said the state can petition to halt the releases. On the day that Governor Ige announced the curve has flattened, only four new positive cases were announced and the death toll remains at 17.	Four new cases announced: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/05/breaking-news/hawaiis-coronavirus-cases-rise-by-4-to-a-total-of-625/
5/5/20	Governor Ige announced that he plans to sign an emergency proclamation to allow retailers to reopen that have "low-contact" with customers. Ige was not specific as to which retailers will be allowed to reopen but did reiterate his intent to reopen all businesses but in phases based on risk. Restaurants will continue to be takeout and/or delivery only. Ige also said he is considering dropping the 14-day interisland travel quarantine, but the domestic and international quarantine will remain in place for a while. Top tourism officials, while in support of the current orders for the benefit of public health, are urging the Governor to begin plans to lift the 14-day quarantine for all travelers. They support testing and contact tracing efforts, but if those are months away, then they believe the industry must open sooner. They cite the 220,000 workers who are unemployed and the long-term devastation to the economy as reasons why plans to reopen tourism need to begin. All the major local universities announced their plans to return to in-class instruction for the fall, with social distancing measures in place. With many local high schoolers unsure of their plans due to nationwide variables of college's reopening, the University of Hawaii wants to provide a safe, quality option for those students. There was one more positive COVID-19 case confirmed as the recovery percentage increased to 88% (548 of the 621 total cases). Of the total number of positive cases, only 73 have required hospitalization.	Governor Ige plans to allow "low-contact" retailers to reopen soon; considering ending 14-day interisland travel quarantine: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/05/hawaii-news/gov-david-ige-is-poised-to-allow-some-retailers-to-reopen-their-doors/ Tourism officials want the Governor to begin plans to reopen traveler industry: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/05/hawaii-news/tourism-leaders-urge-state-recovery-plan/ Hawaii economy not likely to fully recover this year: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/05/hawaii-news/hawaii-economy-not-likely-to-fully-recover-this-year/ University of Hawaii, other local colleges plan to return to in-class instruction for the fall semester: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/04/hawaii-news/university-of-hawaii-to-resume-in-person-instruction-for-fall-semester/ One more positive cases; 88% of all case have recovered: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/1-new-covid-19-case-confirmed-on-the-big-island/
5/4/20	Retailers who are considered "non-essential" face growing uncertainty about when they can reopen, how that will look, and ultimately the future of their business. Businesses that cater to local clientele have hope that their operations can open relatively soon and start generating revenue, though with expected restrictions limiting customers and social distancing, it is unlikely revenue will return to pre-COVID levels immediately. Even more distressing are retailers that cater to tourists knowing that the 14-day travel quarantine, aimed at stopping tourism, will likely be in place for a	Pain grows daily for retailers who are uncertain when they will reopen and what the government's restrictions may be: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/04/hawaii-news/as-financial-pain-grows-hawaiis-nonessential-retailers-await-ok-to-reopen/ Hawaii economic recovery chief seeks input in various forms from all sectors:

	while. As Hawaii's economic recovery chief seeks input from all industry sectors, this will certainly be a primary area to address. Two new positive cases of COVID-19 were confirmed. In addition, the 17th death was reported, though officials made it clear that the person had underlying health issues and COVID may not have been the primary cause of death. The individual contacted COVID while at Maui Memorial Hospital, which is the epicenter of Hawaii's largest cluster with 59 total cases.	https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/reshaping-hawaiis-economy-for-a-post-pandemic-world/ Two new positive cases; 17th reported death: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/03/breaking-news/maui-woman-with-covid-19-dies-becoming-hawaiis-17th-coronavirus-related-fatality/
5/3/20	As the number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to drop, visitor arrivals have slowly increased, with yesterday being the highest total since the 14-day quarantine was ordered in March. More visitors are getting arrested and cited as they do not take the quarantine order seriously. Legislators are waiting for Attorney General guidance on whether the state can designate quarantine sites, require ankle bracelets, and/or use GPS/Facebook recognition. They are also asking Governor Ige to require the backside of the traveler agricultural form be filled out, which provides information on length of stay and addresses of vacation rentals, which are considered non-essential businesses at this time. The travel and hospitality industries continue to modify their operations to plan for the "new normal" when economies slowly begin to reopen. Kauai Mayor Derek Kawakami announced the county is moving to a 4-day, 10-hour work week starting on Monday. This is part of his plan to safely reopen the island's operations and would only last as long as there is an emergency proclamation in place. One more positive COVID-19 cases yesterday bring the statewide total to 620, with 87% having already recovered. Oahu has had 400 cases but 92% have recovered. Maui County has the 2nd highest number of cases (117) but the lowest rate of recovery out of all the counties (74%).	Visitor arrivals continues to increase; lawmakers looking at ways to gather more reliable information and have better tools to verify and enforce travel quarantine: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/03/hawaii-news/hawaii-lawmakers-push-for-tightened-quarantine-as-visitor-numbers-climb/ Travel and hospitality industries modify operations: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/03/hawaii-news/travel-to-hawaii-will-be-filled-with-new-safety-measures-in-a-covid-19-world/ Kauai moving to a temporary 4-day, 10-hour work week: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/03/hawaii-news/kauai-county-shifts-to-4-day-work-week-in-phased-reopening-of-economy/ One more positive case; Oahu has a 92% recovery rate, Maui County has a 74% recovery rate: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/02/breaking-news/hawaiis-coronavirus-tally-rises-by-only-1-for-second-straight-day/
5/2/20	About 200 people protested outside the state capitol building against the stay at home restrictions, urging the Governor to reopen Hawaii. Some participated because of economic hardship from job loss, while others were there to question the seriousness of COVID-19 and opposed the government telling them where they can or cannot go. Three people were arrested. Hawaii Pacific Health, which operates numerous hospitals and clinics statewide, announced they will start free antibody tests for their employees, though safety measures will remain in place as the reliability of	About 200 people hold a rally to protest Hawaii's stay at home order: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/02/hawaii-news/3-demonstrators-arrested-during-re-open-hawaii-now-rally-at-the-state-capitol/ Hospital system to provide free antibody testing for employees without Department of Health endorsement: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/covid-19-antibody-testing-ramps-up-in-hawaii-without-doh-endorsement/

	the tests are in question. The Department of Health has not endorsed this initiative. Also from the private sector, Hawaiian Airlines announced they will require all passengers to wear face masks from check-in to arrival and practice social distancing while boarding. They will also amend some services like drink refills and handing out hot towels. Only one new person tested positive for COVID-19 while six were reported to make a full recovery, which means 532 of the 619 total cases have recovered. Over 30,000 tests have been conducted thus far.	Hawaiian Airlines will require all passengers to wear face masks, practice social distancing: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/02/hawaii-news/newswatch/hawaiian-airlines-requires-passengers-to-wear-face-masks/ One new case of COVID-19: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/recoveries-outnumber-new-covid-19-cases-in-hawaii/
5/1/20	The Senate COVID-19 panel pushed the Department of Transportation and Hawaii Tourism Authority to do better when it comes to verification and enforcement of the 14-day travel quarantine. Since the order, 330 visitors have been referred to law enforcement which Senators believe shows the system is not working. Their concern is heightened with the knowledge that flights in May could begin to ramp up. State officials and industry leaders are talking about marketing Hawaii as "the safest place on Earth" if the best public health infrastructure is put in place. The debate continues on balancing a return to huge tourism numbers versus diversifying the economy and to what extent. It looks increasingly likely that the state legislature will reconvene to take up COVID-19 issues. Possible dates range from as early as May 11 to sometime in June. Logistics are still a major question and whether the resumption will be in-person, via technology, or some combination. Some elected officials believe the legislature could also consider non-COVID bills that had multiple hearings and general consensus prior to the suspension. There were 5 new positive cases yesterday bringing the total to 618. Of that total, only 70 have required hospitalization. Kauai and Oahu have the highest recovery rate, following by Hawaii Island and Maui.	Senators frustrated with state's inability to enforce 14-day travel quarantine: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-senate-committee-why-cant-we-enforce-the-travel-quarantine/ Officials consider marketing Hawaii as "the safest place on Earth" when tourism reopens: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/05/01/hawaii-news/plans-in-the-works-to-market-hawaii-as-the-safest-place-in-the-world/ Legislators considering options to resume legislative session in May or June: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/05/hawaii-lawmakers-are-trying-to-figure-out-how-to-get-back-into-session/ 5 new cases brings total to 618; Kauai and Oahu have highest recovery rate: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/30/breaking-news/hawaii-coronavirus-cases-rise-by-5-to-a-total-of-618/
4/30/30	Governor Ige struck an optimistic tone yesterday as Hawaii experienced its 10th straight day with six positive cases or less. Ige said the curve has been flattened and there is "a light at the end of the tunnel." The Governor also announced a new statewide relief program for those who are self-employed or independent contractors known as PUA. Following up on questions from state senators, Ige said the Payroll Protection Program payments to businesses will not be subject to the state general excise tax.	Governor Ige believes the curve has been flattened; announces the Payroll Protection Program will not be subject to the state general excise tax: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/30/hawaii-news/governor-announces-reopening-of-economy-in-phases/ Ige announces low-risk businesses like golf courses and real estate services can reopen today:

	Governor Ige announced that low risk businesses can begin to reopen today, outlined as real estate services, one-one-one services (tutoring), golf courses, etc. The local economy will reopen in phases based on risk levels. State economists warn that many businesses will not be able to reopen or stay open long-term with back rent due and rising costs combined with expected lower revenues. Lt. Governor Josh Green believes the tourism industry will not reopen soon, but also wants to make sure the standards balance safety and practicality. Ige said that if the 14-day mandatory quarantine is in place, tourism is effectively shut down. There were 4 new cases yesterday as officials are more vocal in their belief that the curve has flattened and the economy can begin to slowly reopen in phases. There are 69 people statewide who are currently hospitalized due to COVID-19 so hospital facilities have not been overcrowded.	https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/30/hawaii-news/hawaii-moving-forward-with-a-cautious-phased-reopening-effort/ Lt. Governor Green warns that the tourism economy will not reopen any time soon: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/covid-19-curve-flattened-but-tourism-wont-open-soon/ 4 new positive cases; 69 people currently hospitalized: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/4-new-covid-19-cases-confirmed-in-hawaii/
4/29/20	Mayor Kirk Caldwell formally announced his desire to open certain "low risk" businesses on Oahu this Friday, pending approval from Governor Ige. Examples of businesses that may reopen shortly include golf courses, real estate services, car washes, and educational tutoring. The Department of Labor is working on upgrading their IT infrastructure as the volume of unemployment claims has overwhelmed the system and the human workforce has struggled to keep up with the demand. The new system will create a separate platform for people to recertify their claims weekly or biweekly, freeing up space on the main server. Hawaii will begin antibody testing on Thursday which will give the state a good picture on who has some type of immunity to COVID-19. In addition to residents, this could be a "game-changer" in reopening the tourism economy as leaders determine policies about who may or may not come to Hawaii. Officials caution that people with antibodies can still be infectious and there's no good research on how long one's immunity lasts because COVID-19 is still relatively new on the world stage. There were 2 new cases of COVID-19 bringing the total to 609. Of note, the first Lanai resident has tested positive but was exposed on Maui and will remain there for the interim. Nearly 83% of all cases have recovered and been released from isolation.	Mayor Caldwell hopes to reopen certain "low risk" businesses on Friday, pending Governor Ige's approval: https://www.civilbeat.org/beat/caldwell-wants-to-loosen-some-business-restrictions-by-may-1/ Department of Labor close to upgrading IT system to hopefully speed up the processing of unemployment claims: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/29/hawaii-news/more-fixes-to-hawaii-unemployment-system-coming-soon/ Hawaii to begin antibody testing on Thursday, giving officials an added tool to reopen the economy to tourists: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/29/hawaii-news/coronavirus-antibody-tests-will-start-thursday/ 2 new cases brings total to 609; 83% of all cases have recovered and been released from isolation: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/2-new-covid-19-cases-reported-including-first-lanai-resident/
4/28/20	The Department of Labor announced that there have been over 220,000 unemployment claims filed between March 1 and April 26. Of that number, about 180,000 have been processed but only 65,000 have been paid. Part of the reason for the backlog is when there is an error in the filing, it	The Department of Labor has processed over 80% of unemployment claims, but only paid less than one-third thus far: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/27/breaking-

	requires manual or interactive follow up. For context, 78,000 filings have required personal outreach to the individual. If a filing has no errors, the expectation is the benefit should be paid within 15 days. US Congressman Ed Case expects Hawaii to receive close to $7 billion in various forms of federal assistance, which includes small business funding, unemployment benefits, and money to support hospitals and state testing. In total there are about 50 programs that could provide aide to Hawaii residents. In a survey conducted by state economists, about one-third of businesses reported they have zero revenue at this time. On the positive side, most of the businesses believe they could rehire and resume operations quickly once the government orders are relaxed. Since the Governor's 14-day traveler quarantine went into effect, about 4,000 passengers have arrived in Hawaii, though many of them were returning residents. In the 32 days of the quarantine, an average of 125 visitors arrive each day. For context, in April 2019 there were 856,250 visitors. There was only 1 new case of COVID-19 yesterday as top officials believe the curve has flattened and the time has come to discuss strategically reopening the economy. More than 81% of the positive cases have recovered. There was one fatality which brings the total to 16.	news/less-than-one-third-of-hawaiis-unemployment-claims-have-been-paid-since-march-1/ Hawaii to receive close to $7 billion in federal assistance; one-third of local businesses report zero revenue in a recent University of Hawaii survey: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/28/hawaii-news/hawaii-is-expected-to-see-7-billion-or-more-in-federal-support/ In the 32 days since the 14-day quarantine order, about 125 visitors are arriving each day: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/27/breaking-news/hawaii-air-arrivals-top-4000-since-start-of-passenger-quarantine/ One new case leads officials to believe the curve has flattened; over 81% of positive cases have recovered: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/27/breaking-news/hawaiis-coronavirus-death-toll-now-at-16-as-total-covid-19-cases-rise-by-1-to-607/
4/27/20	After Mayor Kirk Caldwell stated his objections to Governor Ige's announcement that counties must get approval from his administration before issuing their own emergency orders, two other mayors weighed in. Maui Mayor Mike Victorino echoed the sentiment that counties need to maintain flexibility, but Kauai Mayor Derek Kawakami said it is a non-issue because they have been doing this already as part of their standard operation procedures. Lt. Governor Josh Green said he believes Hawaii has "flattened the curve" with the lowest mortality rate in the country. He believes next week attention can turn to reopening businesses and restoring the economy. Yesterday was marked by two more positive cases and the 15th COVID-related death. Of the 604 total cases, the majority continue to be travel-related. More than 28,000 people have been tested thus far.	Mayors weigh in on Governor Ige's requirement to approve any county emergency orders; Lt. Governor Green says Hawaii has "flattened the curve": https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/27/hawaii-news/iges-reversal-halts-delivery-of-mothers-day-flowers/ Hawaii's ambitious mobile testing operation: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/inside-hawaiis-ambitious-mobile-virus-testing-operation/ 15th COVID-related death confirmed; 2 positive cases: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/26/breaking-news/hawaiis-coronavirus-cases-rise-by-2-to-a-total-of-606/
4/26/20	Governor Ige extended his emergency stay at home and 14-day travel quarantine order through May 31. Two changes are that exercise on the beach is now allowed as well as elective medical procedures since the healthcare system has not been overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases, though	Governor Ige extends stay at home and 14-day travel quarantine order through May 31; requires counties to get his approval before issuing their own emergency orders, drawing criticism:

	he cautioned that could change. Ige also announced that the four county mayors must receive his approval before issuing any of their own emergency orders, which was immediately objected to by the mayor of Oahu. The concern is that counties want to be nimble since they know their islands best. Some in the legal field question whether the Governor can make such an order. While many small businesses are justifiably on edge as tourism has stopped and there's no clear indication when businesses will reopen, many residents are hoping state leaders use this crisis as an opportunity to rethink the tourism economy which saw a record of 10 million visitors last year. For some, tourism has become too great a disturbance in their daily lives, with traffic, overcrowded beach spots, and damage to the environment. Please see the article that outlines all the different ways COVID-19 has impacted the lives of residents, from internet use to traffic fatalities to crime. There were 3 new cases of COVID-19 bringing the total to 604. Of that total number, 68 have required hospitalization so far and 79% of total positive cases have been removed from isolation.	https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/26/hawaii-news/hawaiis-covid-19-stay-at-home-order-and-traveler-quarantines-extended-to-may-31/ Some hope the government will use this crisis as an opportunity to rethink the tourism economy to lessen the burden on residents and the environment: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/26/hawaii-news/covid-19-pause-gives-hawaii-a-chance-to-restore-tourism-balance/ The many ways COVID-19 has changed daily behaviors and interesting social statistics in Hawaii: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/heres-how-the-coronavirus-has-transformed-hawaii/ 3 new cases brings total to 604; 79% no longer in insolation: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/total-number-of-covid-19-cases-in-hawaii-rises-to-604/
4/25/20	Sarah Park, the state epidemiologist warned a panel of Senators that there will likely be a second wave of COVID-19 cases, calling this effort "a marathon, not a sprint." Park said the state does not have the ability to end the disease, but it can slow it down with a long-term plan to strengthen the public health infrastructure and keep social distancing practices in place. The Attorney General believes the 14-day quarantine will remain in place even after the economy reopens, with the possibility of instituting more drastic measures like ankle bracelet monitoring, employing facial recognition software, and/or secured quarantine sites. The Department of Labor announced that over the last 7 days, $44.8 million of federal "plus-up" dollars have been distributed (to approximately 75,000 individuals) in addition to the $23.2 million of state funds distributed during the same time period. Altogether, the maximum amount an individual can received from the federal and state government combined is $1,248 per week based on their income. While officials are happy that the money is starting to go out more quickly, they understand that many of the 250,000 people who have filed unemployment claims have yet to receive anything. Two men died from COVID-19 yesterday, bringing the state's death total to 14. There were 5 new positive cases. Of the 601 total cases, 392 are on	State epidemiologist warns that the fight against COVID-19 is a marathon, not a sprint: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/25/hawaii-news/hawaii-lawmakers-are-advised-to-prepare-for-more-cases-of-covid-19/ Attorney General believes 14-day traveler quarantine will be in place for a while: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/25/hawaii-news/passenger-quarantines-arent-likely-to-end-once-state-reopens/ Department of Labor distributes $44.8 million of the federal "plus-up" dollars to almost 75,000 individuals: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/25/hawaii-news/hawaii-unemployment-officials-finally-distributing-extra-covid-19-federal-aid/ Two more COVID-19 deaths brings the total to 14; 5 new positive cases confirmed: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/24/breaking-

	Oahu, 113 are from Maui County, 69 are on Hawaii Island, and 21 are on Kauai. There are also 6 Hawaii residents who were diagnosed out of state.	news/2-men-with-covid-19-die-on-oahu-bringing-statewide-coronavirus-death-toll-to-14/
4/24/20	Mayor Kirk Caldwell outlined a preliminary plan to reopen businesses on Oahu which would be done in phases based on risk. As early as May 1, the lowest risk businesses can possibly reopen (golf courses, car washes, car dealerships, etc.). After that, moderate level risk businesses would be next with social distancing (retail stores, outdoor malls, etc.). Higher risk businesses (dine-in restaurants, gyms, etc.) would need to make significant operational changes before reopening. In the same press conference, Caldwell mentioned Kauai as an island to relaunch tourism because they have had the least amount of cases. That drew criticism from Senate President Ron Kouchi who disagreed with the suggestion. Many people seeking unemployment are still waiting for their first check, in large part as a result of an archaic system that was not prepared for such a huge spike in claims. Legislators are frustrated as constituents are struggling to hang on. Department of Labor, with the help of volunteers, now says that if a claim is complete with no errors, it should take 15 days for the check to be processed and sent. There were 4 new COVID-19 cases yesterday, bringing the total to 596. People over 60 have contracted the disease at the highest rate, followed by the age 20-39 demographic. Of note, there is $16 million of federal funds coming to Hawaii to boost testing and contact tracing. Hawaii's 10 rural hospitals received an $800,000 grant to purchase more PPE and boost testing. And the University of Hawaii received a $800,000 for telemedicine assistance to doctors and clinics.	Mayor Kirk Caldwell announces broad preliminary plan to reopen businesses in phases based on risk level: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/caldwell-reopen-golf-courses-first-church-services-will-have-to-wait/ Mayor Caldwell suggests Kauai reopen to tourists first; Senate President Ron Kouchi pushes back: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/23/hawaii-news/mayor-caldwell-criticized-for-suggesting-kauai-could-be-a-test-case-for-restarting-tourism/ Archaic system creates huge backlog of unemployment claims; Department of Labor says the quickest a claim can currently be processed and sent is 15 days: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/24/hawaii-news/angst-rises-as-an-archaic-state-system-prevents-timely-payments/ 4 new cases brings the total to 596: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/seven-more-seniors-hospitalized-for-covid-19-in-hawaii/ Federal funds coming to boost testing, contact tracing: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-receives-16m-from-feds-to-boost-testing-contact-tracing/
4/23/20	Director of Health Bruce Anderson, while speaking to the Senate's COVID-19 panel, said Hawaii is well-positioned to begin plans to ease restrictions. As testing has increased, it has shown there is not significant spread of the disease. If the number of new cases remains low and relatively steady, he is comfortable taking steps to reopen the economy. The criteria to reopen from a public health standpoint is a surveillance program, contact testing, and designated quarantine sites. After concerns were expressed by some in the local restaurant and retail industry, Mayor Caldwell clarified that his May 31 shutdown order extension on Oahu is fluid. As positive tests remain relatively low and long-term public health infrastructure is put into place, the order can be	Director of Health says the state is well-positioned to begin plans to ease restrictions, slowly reopen economy: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/23/hawaii-news/state-is-well-positioned-to-relax-restrictions-health-director-says/ Mayor Caldwell clarifies his May 31 shutdown order is fluid and some restrictions could be eased before then: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/23/hawaii-news/honolulu-mayor-caldwell-explains-30-day-shutdown-extension-amid-concerns/

	modified to slowly ease restrictions based on their risk level (opening parks – low risk; opening restaurants with social distancing – medium risk, etc.). Positive cases remained in the single digits for the 4th consecutive day, with six new cases announced. To date, 75% of all individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 have recovered.	Six new cases keeps Hawaii in single digits for the 4th consecutive day: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-reports-6-new-cases-of-covid-19/
4/22/20	Mayor Kirk Caldwell extended Oahu's stay at home order until May 31, though he did announce that parks will reopen for exercise purposes only. He also announced a $2 million program to provide 10,000 tests to community health centers statewide who typically care for underserved populations. Mayor Harry Kim of Hawaii Island, who has been the most resistant to institute the same orders as other mayors, followed suit by requiring all customers age 5 and older wear masks before entering essential businesses. Businesses are required to set up hand sanitizing stations that all customers must use. Hawaii County, specifically Kona, has a cluster of cases that started at a McDonald's franchise, which may have in part prompted the latest order from Mayor Kim. Hospital leaders on Maui, in response to a growing cluster and questions of prior decisions, are working to improve communication and safety procedures. Specific complaints were leadership rationed PPE and did not listen to staff concerns. To date, 46 positive COVID-19 cases have come from Maui's hospital, including one death. The state's largest union, Hawaii Government Employees Association, is urging Governor Ige to exhaust all federal resources, including loans, before instituting a proposed 20% pay cut. US Senator Brian Schatz, a member of the Senate Appropriations committee, supports this strategy. State economists warn a 20% pay cut could have unintended, devastating impacts on the local economy. The state reported only two additional COVID-19 cases, though unfortunately there were two more deaths bringing that total to 12. It was the 2nd straight day of no new cases on Oahu as officials are hopeful the curve is flattening but cautious about reopening the economy too soon.	Mayor Caldwell extends Oahu's stay at home order to May 31: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/22/hawaii-news/mayor-kirk-caldwell-reopening-city-parks-for-exercise-extending-honolulu-stay-at-home-order/ Mayor Kim of Hawaii County requiring residents to wear masks, businesses to provide hand sanitizer: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/21/breaking-news/hawaii-island-mayor-harry-kim-issues-states-strictest-rules-yet-in-response-to-coronavirus/ Maui hospital officials try to be more responsive to staff needs and improve communication: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/22/hawaii-news/maui-memorial-works-to-improve-communication-safety-policies-amid-cluster-of-cases/ Hawaii's largest union and US Senator Brian Schatz urge Governor Ige to seek federal resources before pay cuts: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/22/hawaii-news/public-worker-union-urges-ige-to-borrow-from-feds-instead-of-cutting-workers-pay/ 2 more confirmed COVID-19 deaths; only 2 additional positive cases identified: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/22/hawaii-news/state-reports-just-2-additional-coronavirus-cases-but-2-more-deaths/
4/21/20	As positive cases of COVID-19 have shown a sustained decline, Governor Ige is looking at ways to slowly begin to loosen the stay at home order, though he expects it will extend beyond the initial April 30 date. In response to economists saying there needs to be extensive testing of every visitor when the tourism economy reopens, Ige said that testing each passenger is	The stay at home order is likely to extend beyond April 30 while local leaders identify which industries to slowly reopen: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/21/hawaii-

	logistically impossible because you can only test one at a time and each test takes 20-45 minutes. A state House COVID-19 committee tasked with creating the roadmap to reopen the economy is pushing an aggressive timeline to slowly lift restrictions within a month. The primary effort currently is to ensure the state public health infrastructure is solid to deal with COVID knowing it is not going to disappear in a month. Parks and restaurants were hypothetically mentioned as the first to reopen, but social distancing will be implemented for the foreseeable future. The up to $600 per person of federal unemployment payments, which is in addition to the state benefit, will begin being distributed tomorrow. The state developed a new system to meet the unprecedented demand, created a system in real time, and now has processed nearly $6 million in claims. There were only 4 new positive cases yesterday, the lowest in two months. There were zero new cases on Oahu. Hawaii has the 2nd lowest mortality rate in the nation and over 72% of the 584 total cases have recovered.	news/ige-expects-stay-home-order-to-be-extended-beyond-april-30/ COVID-19 economic committee hoping to begin slowly reopen parts of the economy within the next month: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/21/hawaii-news/gradual-lifting-of-state-lockdown-could-start-in-a-month/ $600 of weekly additional federal unemployment benefits will begin to be distributed on Wednesday: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/21/hawaii-news/the-first-600-extra-unemployment-payments-should-go-out-wednesday/ Only 4 new cases is the lowest one-day total in two months; zero new cases on Oahu: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/21/hawaii-news/hawaii-sees-2-month-low-of-4-new-coronavirus-cases-with-none-on-oahu/
4/20/20	As we have seen across the world, seniors in Hawaii have been the most vulnerable after contracting COVID-19. 20% of positive cases over the age of 60 have required hospitalization, as compared to 6% of ages 40 to 59 and 3% of ages 20 to 39. In addition, many seniors rely on financial support from their families, and with 37% of Hawaii's workforce unemployed, that increases their challenge to afford food and medicine. Local farmers are used to dealing with natural disasters, but the COVID crisis is providing new and difficult challenges. Many farmers have lost more than half their business with the unprecedented development of shutting down hotels and restaurants. And while there are federal supports available, local leaders are encouraging residents to buy local to support the agriculture industry that will be important going forward. Officials announced the 10th COVID-19 related death in Hawaii. Six new positive cases were reported, bringing the total to 580. Of concern, the Maui hospital cluster continues to grow as more tests results come in.	Hawaii seniors face multiple threats (health and financial) during COVID crisis: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/20/hawaii-news/covid-19-challenges-increase-vulnerability-of-hawaiis-seniors/ Local farmers being hit especially hard with shutdown of hotels and restaurants: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/20/hawaii-news/covid-19-is-new-pestilence-for-hawaii-farmers/ 10th death reported; 6 more positive cases confirmed; Maui hospital cluster grows to 45 cases: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/20/hawaii-news/maui-sees-hawaiis-10th-death-from-virus/
4/19/20	State and county officials are bracing for a big surge in the homeless population as layoffs, furloughs, and salary cuts have been implemented throughout the state. The Department of Labor has said that 37% of the	State facing a big surge in homeless population and funding will pose a major challenge:

	state's workforce has filed for unemployment. A major concern is the state's current homeless budget, about $25 million, all comes from general funds. With a projected $1.5 billion deficit from the COVID-19 fallout, tough funding decisions will need to be made if/when the surge occurs. Transient vacation rentals, with a supply at 33,000 in 2019, have become a major impediment in enforcing the self-quarantine order. No one really knows how many are using vacation rentals because the arriving visitor form does not distinguish whether the lodging address is a residence or vacation rental. In addition, the hotels that remain open provide some level of security to check if visitors are staying in their rooms that rentals do not. University of Hawaii researchers are urging the state to step up its COVID-19 response by boosting contact testing and isolating anyone who tests positive in hotel rooms at the government's expense. Researchers used the term "grave danger" to describe the disease's potential to spread in Hawaii if measures like these are not taken. Hawaii had 21 new positive cases yesterday, 17 of which come from Hawaii Island and the identified cluster from two McDonald's in Kona. 410 of the 574 total cases have been released from isolation. The community continues to step up to meet the demand for masks as officials warn that wearing masks will be a way of life in 2020.	https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/19/hawaii-news/big-surge-of-newly-homeless-feared/ Transient vacation rentals make it difficult to enforce self-quarantine order: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/19/hawaii-news/tourists-using-transient-rentals-to-bypass-hawaii-quarantine-restrictions-prove-hard-to-track/ University researches urge state to boost contact testing and isolate positive tests in hotels: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/19/hawaii-news/uh-researchers-urge-the-state-to-step-up-its-virus-response/ 21 new cases in Hawaii, with the majority coming from the cluster in Kona: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-reports-21-new-covid-19-cases/ Community groups step up to meet demand of masks: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/19/hawaii-news/hawaii-community-members-join-forces-to-meet-the-demand-for-face-masks/
4/18/20	Governor Ige and top department officials are beginning to prepare residents that even when the current orders are eased, we will not return to our former way of life, including no large gatherings. The Governor also closed all beaches (except for ocean exercises) and limited hiking groups to no more than two people. Under pressure from the community based on fears of eviction, Ige strengthened and extended his restriction on landlords evicting tenants for not paying rent. A USA Today nationwide report had Hawaii with the highest unemployment rate in the country, as it jumped almost 20% from earlier in the year. The report projects Hawaii's unemployment rate will peak at around 25% this summer and settling at 13.7% for the whole year. Tourism officials and the Airports Division will begin tightening enforcement of the quarantine order, making it less reliant on the honor system. Officials will ensure that visitors have hotel lodging, they will	Ige warns that Hawaii won't return to former way of life when restrictions ease: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/18/hawaii-news/state-officials-say-some-precautions-likely-to-remain-even-after-virus-wanes/ Greater restrictions on outdoor activities go into effect: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/18/hawaii-news/regulations-for-outdoor-activities-in-hawaii-are-tightened/ USA Today report shows Hawaii with nation's highest unemployment rate: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/18/hawaii-news/hawaii-has-the-highest-unemployment-rate-in-the-nation-usa-today-reports/

	ensure the visitor has a working cell phone number, and they will call the visitor up to three times during their visit. If they do not answer, law enforcement will be notified. If they are staying at a residence, screeners will search property tax records to verify addresses. The Department of Education announced that public schools will continue with distance learning for the remainder of this school year. For the 180,000 students in the system, the school year will end on May 28. Access to necessary distance learning devices and staying connected to students who are unresponsive remains a challenge. Nearly 70 public schools continue to offer grab-and-go breakfast and lunch for students. Members of the Senate COVID-19 task force are losing patience with Governor Ige's Chief of Staff, who faced another round of very pointed questions about her perceived lack of transparency and urgency. Senators are considering subpoenaing departments directly so the information requested does not get filtered by the Chief of Staff. There were 12 new COVID-19 cases yesterday. Officials believe the cluster at Maui's hospital is due to one employee who continued to work while sick.	Officials tightening enforcement of visitor quarantine order: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/18/hawaii-news/hawaii-tourism-airport-officials-tightening-scrutiny-of-travelers/ Department of Education announces public schools will continue with distance learning for the remainder of the school year: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/17/hawaii-news/hawaiis-public-schools-stick-with-distance-learning-for-rest-of-academic-year/ Senator's losing patience with Governor Ige and his Chief of Staff: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-reports-12-new-covid-19-cases/ 12 new cases of COVID-19 brings the total to 553: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-reports-12-new-covid-19-cases/
4/17/20	Despite having a relatively low number of positive cases and COVID-19 related deaths, Hawaii does not meet President Trump's recently released criteria to reopen the economy on May 1, which includes declining cases over a 14-day period. That may be tough to accomplish as the recent trend has been positive cases between 7 and 12, depending on the day. Governor Ige has stated that the mandatory 14-day quarantine for people arriving to Hawaii will be in place for a while. Ige also addressed the anticipated $1.5 billion shortfall, saying that state government will not look the same going forward. With personnel costs being the most expensive line item, pay cuts are on the table. Alan Oshima, the Governor's recently appointed leader to create an economic plan to reopen the economy, clearly faces a tough task. In his role he will meet with business leaders across many sectors, some with competing interests. For businesses, social distancing may continue for a while and telework could become more imbedded in work culture. One thing Oshima is clear on is that not everyone will be happy with the new direction the state takes.	Hawaii does not meet President Trump's criteria to reopen economy on May 1; Ige says tough calls will be made to makeup the significant $1.5 billion shortfall: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/17/hawaii-news/state-doesnt-meet-criteria-for-reopening-yet/ Oshima begins the process of creating a plan to reopen the state's economy; makes it clear the final product won't make everyone happy: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaiis-new-economic-navigator-has-a-murky-journey-ahead/ Hawaii cases grow by 11; state epidemiologist reminds the public that COVID-19 won't just disappear, so a prepared healthcare system is the key: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-reports-11-new-covid-19-cases/

	There are 11 new positive cases as more evidence shows a steady (but small) increase of community-associated cases (as opposed to travel-related). And while the state epidemiologist says the hope is that stops, it is unrealistic to think the disease will just disappear. The goal is to make sure the health system is prepared to handle inevitable cases going forward. To that end, the Maui hospital case numbers continue to grow, now at 41 with many more tests still pending.	
4/16/20	There was more public opposition to Governor Ige's proposed 20% pay cut to teachers and government employees. While top legislators acknowledge the Governor has the authority to do this, they are urging him to look at other options like eliminating outdated programs or get creative by thinking about instituting telework and diversifying the economy. Union leaders continue to push back on the proposal, with the teacher's union particularly vocal in their opposition. Department of Health officials are now investigating six potential clusters, including two at elder care facilities on Oahu and Maui. So far of the over 20,000 tests conducted, only 2.6% have been positive which officials say suggests the disease is not widespread. Since the quarantine order went in place 20 days ago, over 2,600 visitors have come to Hawaii which averages about 133 a day. State senators are waiting for the Department of Transportation to come up with a plan from the airports to ensure that visitors have verified accommodations to self-quarantine in. Unemployment payments are going out at a higher rate, with $11 million issued last week as opposed to $4 million the prior two weeks. The $11 million represents a 230% increase over what the Department of Labor pays during a typical week, and that number is expected to grow. If the state were to pay all 237,000 claims at the maximum allowed (which would not be the case but just for context), that would be $154 million a week. 13 more positive cases bring the state's total to 530, though more than of that number have already recovered. About 170 cases are currently being monitored by the Department of Health.	Governor Ige's 20% pay cut proposal not supported by top legislators and union leaders: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/lawmakers-union-officials-are-pushing-back-against-state-pay-cuts/ Department of Health investigating a handful of potential clusters: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/16/hawaii-news/hawaii-officials-intestigating-a-half-dozen-coronavirus-clusters/ About 133 visitors a day have come to Hawaii since the self-quarantine order went into effect: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/15/breaking-news/more-than-2600-visitors-have-come-to-hawaii-since-quarantine-began/ Unemployment payouts happening at a higher rate, but many still waiting: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/16/hawaii-news/more-money-to-flow-to-hawaiis-unemployed/ 13 more COVID-19 cases confirmed, but more than half of all 530 positive cases have recovered: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/more-than-half-of-hawaiis-530-covid-19-cases-have-recovered/
4/15/20	Two of Hawaii's most powerful unions were informed by the Ige Administration that they are proposing a 20% pay cut for "most" public employees starting as early as May 1. The teacher's union and government employee union both oppose the cut, which is unclear if it's an across-the-board salary decrease or furloughs. There's also a proposed 10% cut for other unions like nurses, correctional officers, etc.	Ige Administration proposes 20% pay cuts for government employee and teacher unions: https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2020/04/15/teachers-union-governor-is-proposing-pay-cuts-most-state-employees/

	Oahu Mayor Kirk Caldwell issued a mandate that starting Monday, anyone entering a place of business must wear a nonsurgical mask. There are exemptions, including financial institutions and ATM machines. Penalties could include fines and/or jail time. Starting on April 22, the Department of Labor will begin distributing the additional $600 per week of unemployment benefits, which have been delayed in part because of a lack of automated systems and a general lack of workforce capacity. Hawaii is exploring whether they can restrict visitors from securing lodging to continue reducing tourism. While numbers have dropped significantly, visitors are still coming to Hawaii and enforcement is mostly on the honor system. Also, state senators want the airports to verify that when a visitor says they have lodging to fulfill the 14-day quarantine, that the information proves to be true. 13 new positive cases were confirmed, bringing the total to 517, with the death rate remaining at about 1%. There was a 2nd confirmed "cluster," this time from a restaurant in Kona on the island of Hawaii. State officials are using this (and Maui Memorial Hospital) as examples of how one individual who does not adhere to self-quarantine and social distancing can have an exponential impact on close contacts in his/her community.	Mayor Caldwell issues mandate to wear masks when conducting business transactions: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/15/hawaii-news/mayor-caldwell-mandates-masks-for-business-interactions/ Department of Labor to begin distributing extra unemployment benefit checks on April 22: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/15/hawaii-news/state-hopes-to-start-giving-out-extra-unemployment-payments-in-a-week/ State looking into ways to limit visitors ability to find lodging in Hawaii: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/15/hawaii-news/hawaii-explores-visitor-crackdowns-as-more-keep-coming/ Total cases up to 517; 2nd cluster confirmed, this time in Kona on the island of Hawaii: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-coronavirus-cases-reach-517/
4/14/20	Studies show that so far, Hawaii has the third lowest rate per capita of positive COVID-19 cases. Officials believe the curve is flattening but warn that a spike is still possible if there's no vaccine. Before the economy can reopen, tourists and residents must have confidence that testing protocols are in place that will prevent community spread. Experts continue to make the point that it only takes a few bad actors to infect hundreds of individuals. In terms of reopening the tourism economy, state economist's optimistic projection is late summer or early fall. Many believe the 14-day traveler quarantine should stay in place for a while, and even when the stay at home order is relaxed, residents should still wear masks in public. One idea being floated is if a visitor shows proof of taking a recent COVID-19 test, they won't have to adhere to the quarantine. State Senators grilled Governor Ige's Chief of Staff, who was unable or unwilling to answer many of their tough questions. Continued issues that are being brought up include the slow response to paying unemployment	Hawaii has 3rd lowest rate per capita of positive COVID-19 cases in the US: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/14/hawaii-news/hawaiis-coronavirus-infection-rate-among-the-lowest-in-the-u-s-so-far/ Reopening the economy must be a slow, thoughtful process: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/reopening-hawaiis-economy-will-likely-be-slow-and-painful/ State Senators grill Governor's Chief of Staff as frustration grows with Administration's response and perceived lack of coordination and urgency: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/14/hawaii-news/state-senators-slam-officials-over-covid-19-response/

	claims, the lack of enforcement on the travel quarantine, no plan to safely reopen the economy, and not canceling the heavily attended RIMPAC conference. Hawaii had 5 new positive cases which brings the total to 504. The numbers continue to remain relatively low, which is a sign of a flattening curve. Over 60% of the total number of diagnosed patients have fully recovered. And Hawaii has conducted over 19,000 tests, which places it in the top 10 per capita of testing nationwide.	5 new cases brings the total to 504; Hawaii officials are cautiously optimistic that government actions are working: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/14/hawaii-news/low-number-of-new-covid-19-cases-has-officials-feeling-good-about-response/
4/13/20	An online petition, which has garnered more than 3,000 signatures so far, is calling for the resignation of Maui Memorial Medical Center's leadership. The hospital's leadership has been accused of, among other things, restricting staff from wearing PPE unless they were dealing directly with a COVID-19 patient. There are 31 positive cases with more test results pending. The jail population has decreased by 25% as the criminal justice system works to lower the number of individuals in facilities to lessen the chances of a potential prison COVID-19 cluster. This decrease is a result of less people being arrested and/or charged and not the result of releasing inmates early. Housing and homeless advocates are calling on Governor Ige to implement safeguards for renters, with the concern being that the huge spike in unemployment puts those living paycheck to paycheck at risk being evicted. Gas prices in Hawaii have fallen at a rate similar to that on the continental U.S., but not enough for Hawaii residents to feel any relief in their pocketbook. Over the last few weeks, gas prices have dropped 6%, but the average price is still $3.31 per gallon as compared to $1.88 per gallon nationally. There were 13 new positive COVID-19 cases yesterday, bringing the overall total in Hawaii since testing started for the pandemic to 499. Clustering on Maui continues to be a concern, with one already identified at the hospital and others being investigated at a church and with a motorcycle group.	Petition circulates to remove leadership of Maui's hospital: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/13/hawaii-news/petition-calls-for-leaders-of-maui-hospital-to-resign/ Jail population decreases by 25% as less individuals are being arrested and/or charged: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/13/hawaii-news/jail-populations-drop-amid-virus-pandemic/ Governor Ige being asked to protect vulnerable renters from eviction: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaiis-not-ready-for-a-wave-of-evictions-caused-by-the-pandemic/ Gas prices are dropping: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/13/hawaii-news/with-less-demand-price-of-gas-falls-but-not-much/ 13 new cases brings the total to 499; Department of Health investigating more possible Maui clusters: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-now-has-499-confirmed-covid-19-cases/
4/12/20	Concern continues to increase on Maui as 10 new positive cases were confirmed with ties to the Maui hospital. That brings the total number so far from that facility to 29, though hospital officials say that number is inaccurate. Testing in and around the hospital has increased with area	Maui hospital positive cases increase by 10; two arrested on Oahu for breaking new curfew order: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/12/hawaii-news/more-cases-confirmed-at-maui-memorial-hot-spot/

	legislators requesting the national guard come in to help enforce travel restrictions and community policing. Last night was the first for Oahu's temporary curfew; two people were arrested. Speculation continues about the future of Hawaii's 2020 legislative session, as social distancing makes it impossible for lawmakers (and staff) to gather for votes. There have been discussions about not reconvening, as well as the feasibility of remote voting. One thing that key legislators agree on is that the fiscal health of the state is not good. Economists project a decline in revenue between 10% and 25%; if 25%, that represents about a $1.85 billion budget shortfall. The immediate goals are to make sure essential services are funded, with the long-term goal being diversifying Hawaii's economy. There were 21 new cases of COVID-19, mostly on Maui. The total number is now at 486, with 44 of those cases requiring hospitalization. There was also the 9th confirmed death. Positive signs are that 300 of the total number of positive cases no longer require isolation, and the number of new cases per day has yet to see a spike, suggesting the curve may be flattening.	Maui County legislators request national guard support: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/11/breaking-news/legislators-want-hawaii-national-guard-to-help-fight-covid-19-in-rural-areas-of-maui-county/ Reconvening the 2020 legislative session remains uncertain as legislators concern grows about the state's fiscal health: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/chad-blair-pandemic-is-scrambling-state-budget-priorities/ 21 new cases brings the total to 486; 9th death confirmed: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-reports-21-new-covid-19-cases-two-hospitalizations/
4/11/20	The cluster of positive tests from Maui's hospital continues to grow with 19 total cases so far coming from staff or patients. The four new positive tests came as part of a widespread test of 126 staff and patients; results are still pending for 102 of those tests. Medical staff members have complained of poor leadership that led to unsafe policies, including only being allowed to wear PPE if caring for a known positive case of COVID-19. A new program, funded by the Hawaii Tourism Authority, aims to send back visitors who don't show they have the resources to adhere to the mandatory 14-day quarantine. To date, 9 travelers have been sent back, often using funds from the Visitor Aloha Society of Hawaii. State departments have created an online system that allows travelers to report daily compliance with quarantine orders, but the state is unable to track visitors using smartphone location services due to potential civil liberty violations. Two more COVID-related deaths were confirmed yesterday, bringing Hawaii's total to 8. In addition, there were 22 new positive cases. Of note, the Department of Health appears to have changed its message from earlier in the week when they said all close contacts of COVID-19 patients will be tested regardless of if they're symptomatic. The policy now appears	Maui hospital cluster continues to grow as staff complains of unsafe policies from leadership: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/11/hawaii-news/lack-of-protective-gear-erratic-policies-leave-maui-hospital-staff-fearful-of-infection/ Program in place to return visitors who don't have resources to adhere to mandatory quarantine: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/11/hawaii-news/arriving-visitors-spur-local-5-to-push-for-hotel-safety/ Drones enlisted to enforce stay at home and curfew orders: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/11/hawaii-news/drones-enlisted-to-enforce-honolulus-stay-at-home-orders/ Death total now at 8; Department of Health goes back on announcement of expanded testing, will only test close contacts with COVID-19 symptoms:

	to be testing will only be for individuals with symptoms but all close contacts are encouraged to self-quarantine. Lt. Governor Josh Green continues to disagree with this decision and is pushing for testing of all close contacts.	https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-reports-2-more-covid-19-deaths/
4/10/20	Starting tonight and lasting through Sunday night, Oahu will enforce an 11 PM to 5 AM curfew, meaning all cars should be off the road and there should be no social gatherings (with limited exceptions). This is similar to what's been in place on Kauai for weeks. Mayor Caldwell believes the measures in place are flattening the curve and this is another tool to expedite that process. After this weekend, officials will determine if the curfew will remain. In the ongoing debate on whether to release inmates to help combat spreading COVID-19 within the prison system, the latest recommendation is to move forward with releasing prisoners but that each case needs to be reviewed individually. This angered advocates who believe that will delay the process. This proposed process is supported by the Attorney General and most county prosecutors. While the tens of thousands of daily tourist numbers are down, hundreds are still coming to Hawaii every day. Top officials, including most mayors, want Governor Ige to ask President Trump to shutdown travel, but Ige has resisted. Hawaii's 283 public schools remain closed and it appears likely that will be true for the remainder of the school year. New guidance from the Department of Education said schools will remain closed until there's no more COVID-19 community spread, defined as 4-weeks of no new cases. Yesterday, there were only 7 new cases of COVID-19 and no deaths. This represents the smallest increase in new cases in more than two weeks. Officials continue to stress that positive signs exist of a flattening curve but the next couple weeks remain vital in the effort.	Oahu to institute pilot 3-night curfew program: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/10/hawaii-news/curfew-for-oahu-is-imposed/ New recommendation is to review each case individually when determining early prison release: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/10/hawaii-news/special-master-foley-recommends-state-move-ahead-with-plan-to-release-inmates/ Hundreds of visitors still flying to Hawaii each day: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/10/hawaii-news/hawaii-visitors-slip-in-despite-covid-19-crackdowns/ Hawaii public schools likely to remain closed for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/09/hawaii-news/hawaii-public-schools-to-remain-closed-until-state-goes-4-weeks-without-new-covid-19-cases/ 7 new positive cases reported, the smallest increase in over two weeks: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/09/breaking-news/hawaii-confirmed-coronavirus-cases-rise-to-442-up-7/
4/9/20	As soon as Friday or Monday, the Department of Human Resources will begin redeploying some of the 706 state workers that have been deemed as eligible to support other departments in need. The Department of Labor has the most need with over 200,000 unemployment claims filed since March. It's possible that several other departments could use redeployed workforce support and are in the process of identifying their needs.	Department of Human Resources to begin redeploying state workers to support departments in need: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/09/hawaii-news/state-to-redeploy-initial-idle-workers-by-monday/ Governor Ige appoints Hawaiian Electric executive Alan Oshima to lead economic recovery initiative:

	Governor Ige has appointed Alan Oshima, former CEO of Hawaiian Electric, to lead the statewide COVID-19 recovery initiative. Ige called this crisis the biggest we'll ever face in our lifetime. As one part of the recovery team's goals, they will look to reevaluate and restructure Hawaii's economy to be less reliant on tourism and diversify industries and workforce opportunities. After a lot of back and forth between the Lt. Governor and Department of Health, the state announced that it will officially be following the LG's opinion to trace and test close contacts of positive cases, even if they do not show any symptoms. According to the LG, this model has proven to be effective in mitigating community spread in Asia. US Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, who is resigning from her seat at the end of the year, has publicly called upon Governor Ige to fire the Director of the Department of Health and the State Epidemiologist, calling them "either grossly out of touch or extremely negligent." She went on to say that if Governor Ige does not replace them, then he should step down. Hawaii has 25 new cases, bringing the total to 435. There was also the 6th COVID-related death. Of note, it was discovered that 15 of the previously identified cases on Maui are all healthcare workers at the local hospital which is the first known incident of "clustering" in Hawaii. The concern is that clustering is a quick way to spike the curve. Officials believe those 15 individuals may have been in contact with up to 500 employees and patients.	https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/09/hawaii-news/alan-oshima-to-lead-state-recovery-initiative/ Hawaii to begin tracing and testing close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases, even if asymptomatic: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-officials-announces-expanded-covid-19-testing/ Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard calls for Governor Ige to fire two key COVID-19 state officials: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/tulsi-gabbard-to-david-ige-fire-your-top-health-officials-or-resign/ 25 new COVID-19 cases; 6th official death declared: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/sixth-person-dies-from-covid-19-in-hawaii/ Hawaii has first known "cluster" of cases, 15 healthcare workers from Maui's hospital: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/09/hawaii-news/at-least-15-employees-at-a-maui-medical-center-test-positive-for-covid-19/
4/8/20	Lt. Governor Josh Green, along with a group of fellow physicians, are calling on state health officials to conduct more extensive testing. Specifically, they want testing of all intimate contacts of COVID-19 patients, even if those individuals show no symptoms. Green cites this tactic as one important way that Asia was able to stop community spread. Criticism of the Department of Health continues as they've only conducted 400 tests compared to thousands conducted by private labs. The Honolulu Police Department announced that effective immediately, they will begin issuing citations instead of warnings. Police officials said they've issued over 5,000 warnings but only hundreds of citations thus far. On Kauai, the National Guard has begun helping local law enforcement by supporting the mayor's orders for checkpoints and a 9 PM curfew. From the beginning, Kauai has taken the most restrictive measures to combat the disease.	Lt. Governor, other physicians call upon state health officials to conduct more extensive testing: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/08/hawaii-news/lt-gov-josh-green-calls-for-more-extensive-testing/ Honolulu Police announce increase in enforcement: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/08/hawaii-news/honolulu-police-have-issued-more-than-5000-warnings-in-connection-with-coronavirus-emergency-orders/ Kauai calls upon National Guard for support: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/08/hawaii-news/kauai-responds-to-coronavirus-with-crackdowns-and-compassion/

	With 23 newly reported cases, Hawaii now has 410 total COVID-19 positive tests. There's also been a recent increase in hospitalizations, going from 26 to 42 since Monday. Of the 410 positive cases, 113 have recovered enough to be released from isolation. Private labs have conducted over 15,000 tests based on physician referrals.	Hawaii at 410 positive cases; private labs have conducted over 15,000 tests: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/hawaii-covid-19-infections-now-exceed-400/
4/7/20	Top state economists and government officials believe the worst-case scenario for opening the tourism economy is 12-18 months. That number could drop significantly if testing is put into place that gives employees, tourists, and residents confidence that Hawaii is safe. There is also the expectation that when the local economy reopens, safety measures like social distancing and masks will likely continue in the beginning. The Governor's mandatory 14-day quarantine for interisland travel went into effect last week but has lacked enforcement. County officials haven't received timely information about which arriving passengers need monitoring and no one is making compliance calls. The National Guard has started to do screening at state airports. The University of Washington model, which previously projected the number of deaths in Hawaii at 372 is now down to 155. Hawaii's peak is estimated to begin in about a week, earlier than the previous projection of May. State officials are still hopeful the model may be overestimating the death total because it doesn't fully consider the unprecedented travel ban order. Hawaii had its lowest increase in positive COVID-19 cases in the last 10 days with 16 bringing the total to 387. There was also the 5th COVID-related death and the first on a neighbor island (Maui). Officials believe this is not the sign of a downward trend and the worst is still to come.	Reliable testing the key to reopening the tourism economy: https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/04/ige-uh-economists-agree-covid-19-testing-may-be-key-to-restoring-tourism/ Enforcement of interisland 14-day travel quarantine is lacking: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/07/hawaii-news/quarantine-of-visitors-lacks-enforcement/ Model now has Hawaii projected deaths at 155, down from 372: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/07/hawaii-news/model-revises-estimated-hawaii-deaths-down-to-155/ Total cases rises to 387; first neighbor island death on Maui: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/04/07/hawaii-news/hawaiis-number-of-new-virus-cases-falls-but-worst-yet-to-come/
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	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/

	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.	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 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.	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 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	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/

	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.	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. 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.	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 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:

	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.	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 believe Hawaii is at an early stage in fighting the pandemic and that things will get worse before it gets better.	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/
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	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/

	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.	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. 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.	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-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/

	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.	
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. 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.	Waikiki has emptied out: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/29/hawaii-news/once-filled-with-visitors-waikiki-has-turned-into-a-ghost-town/ 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-

	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.	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	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/

	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.	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. 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	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/ 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/

	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.	
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 but one county already instituting a similar order, this will provide consistency statewide. Ige also extended the personal and corporate state	Governor announces statewide order: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/24/hawaii-news/ige-announces-statewide-business-travel-restrictions-to-limit-virus-spread/

	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.	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	State imposes a 14-day travel quarantine: https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/03/22/hawaii-

	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.	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/