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July 13, 2020

Aloha mai,

In an effort to keep you, our valued media partners, apprised of updates that directly impact our visitor industry, I am writing to inform you that on July 13, Hawai'i Governor David Ige announced that he is **delaying the launch of the state's pre-travel testing program until September 1, 2020.**

While Hawai'i had hoped to reopen the state to Trans-Pacific travel beginning August 1, 2020, due to the recent COVID-19 surges on the continental United States and other factors, our state officials have decided to postpone the reopening in order to protect the health and safety of our residents and visitors.

As a result of this announcement, the **14-day travel quarantine will remain in place through August 31.** The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) press release below includes a statement from HTA President and CEO Chris Tatum.

Governor Ige also said that the state still believes the pre-travel testing program will help Hawai'i stay safe. He announced that progress on the program is being made and more details will be in place by Sept. 1. Reiterating the outline of the program:

- Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) from a certified Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) lab
- Travelers exempt for mandatory 14-day quarantine if testing negative no more than 72 hours in advance of travel
- If results are not available by time of arrival, quarantine necessary until test results received
- All travelers of all ages subject to pre-test requirement
- Individuals responsible for testing costs
- No commercial testing provided at Hawai'i airports

The governor says the pre-test is one part of a multi-layered screening process which includes arrival temperature checks, completion of the State Travel and Health form, and secondary screening for those with symptoms or temperatures of 100.4 degrees or higher.

We appreciate your understanding as we continue the careful process of reopening, and offer a sincere mahalo for your support in keeping your audiences informed.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Monahan'.

John Monahan
President & CEO



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David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

For Immediate Release: July 13, 2020
HTA Release (20-123)

HTA Responds to the State of Hawai'i's Decision to Delay Start of Pre-travel Testing Program

HONOLULU – Gov. David Ige announced this afternoon that after meeting with the four county mayors and officials from the Department of Health (DOH) he has decided to delay the start of Hawai'i's pre-travel testing program from August 1st to September 1st. All travelers entering Hawai'i will be subject to the mandatory 14-day quarantine until September 1st. Taking a COVID-19 test will not allow anyone who is traveling from out-of-state to bypass the quarantine.

In response to today's announcement, Chris Tatum, president and CEO of the Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) said, "We want to welcome back our visitors once our state is ready to do so in a safe manner that will hopefully avoid the need to backtrack in the future. Once we receive details on the process and requirements from the Department of Transportation and the DOH, we will share that information with the visitor industry."

The governor said during a news briefing this afternoon: "We have always said that we will make decisions based on the health and safety of our community as the highest priority. This decision came through much much discussion and we have assessed the situation that we see before us and over the past few weeks. I've already mentioned that we've set a new record in the number of cases – 42. And just a reminder a few days before that we had set the previous record of 41 cases."

Gov. Ige added: "On the U.S. mainland we continue to see uncontrolled outbreaks and surges. This includes the highest number of daily cases in California, Texas, Arizona and Florida, and increasing cases in Nevada. As we speak right now, the outbreaks on the mainland are not in control and we don't believe that that situation would change significantly by August 1st as we had hoped."

To watch Gov. Ige's press conference, visit HTA's Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/HawaiiHTA/>

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About the Hawai'i Tourism Authority

The [Hawai'i Tourism Authority](#) is the State of Hawai'i agency responsible for strategically managing its support of the tourism industry. Established in 1998 to support Hawai'i's leading industry and largest employer, HTA continually strives to help ensure tourism's sustainability and the benefits it brings to residents and communities statewide. Follow updates about HTA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) (@HawaiiHTA).

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