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COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
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September 9, 2021

RECEIVED

2021 SEP 10 AM 10:04
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The Honorable Alice L. Lee
Council Chair
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Lee:

**SUBJECT: FREE COVID-19 TESTING FOR MAUI COUNTY
RESIDENTS (PAF 21-263)**

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "URGING THE MAYOR TO IMPLEMENT EXPANDED, FREE, ACCESSIBLE, RAPID COVID-19 TESTING FOR ALL MAUI COUNTY RESIDENTS," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Tamara A. M. Paltin
TAMARA PALTIN
Councilmember

paf:lma:21-263b

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 21-455

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE MAYOR TO IMPLEMENT EXPANDED, FREE, ACCESSIBLE, RAPID COVID-19 TESTING FOR ALL MAUI COUNTY RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, the Delta variant is the predominant variant of the virus that causes COVID-19 in the United States, is twice as contagious as previous variants, and poses a greater risk of transmission; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2021, the State of Hawai‘i Department of Health documented 69,144 COVID-19 cases, including 8,387 cases in Maui County, since the start of the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Department of Health data show Maui County is averaging the highest percentage of new cases in the State with more than 57.1 people testing positive for COVID-19 each week on average; and

WHEREAS, on September 2, 2021, the Maui County Council’s Human Concerns and Park Committee hosted Michael Rembis, CEO of Maui Health System, where he said: “What we have right now is the largest amount of COVID on Maui and in the State of Hawai‘i than we’ve ever had in the entire pandemic. That is concerning.”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rembis went on to share that Delta is affecting “much younger people,” with some fatal cases even for those in their 20s and 30s; and

WHEREAS, on September 3, 2021, Hawai‘i News Now reported, “Healthcare workers in Hawai‘i say a lack of government action is worsening an already crippling surge of coronavirus cases in the islands, and without effective policy changes the State’s limited hospitals could face a grim crisis”; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i News Now also reported that doctors across Hawai‘i say the State government has failed to implement a variety of public-health measures officials agreed to last year, including ramping up rapid testing; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, increased access to free, accessible, rapid COVID-19 testing will help slow the spread of the virus by helping residents know their status sooner; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the Mayor to implement expanded, free, accessible, rapid COVID-19 testing for all Maui County residents; and
2. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Lori Tsuhako, Director of Housing and Human Concerns, County of Maui; Dr. Elizabeth A. Char, Director of Health, State of Hawai'i; Dr. Lorrin Pang, Maui State Health Officer, State of Hawai'i; Michael Rembis, CEO, Maui Health System; Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui; and Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i.

paf:lma:21-263a