

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Riki Hokama  
Kelly Takaya King  
Michael J. Molina  
Tamara Paltin  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

May 19, 2020

Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

RECEIVED

2020 MAY 19 AM 9:50

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

Dear Chair Lee:

**SUBJECT: SUPPORTING MAUI COUNTY'S HEALTHCARE  
WORKERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND OTHER  
ESSENTIAL WORKERS DURING THE COVID-19  
PANDEMIC (PAF 20-146)**

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "SUPPORTING MAUI COUNTY'S HEALTHCARE WORKERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL WORKERS AT THE FRONT LINES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

*Yuki Lei K. Sugimura*  
YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA  
Councilmember

paf:nas:20-146b

Enclosure

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 20-290

# Resolution

No. \_\_\_\_\_

## SUPPORTING MAUI COUNTY'S HEALTHCARE WORKERS, FIRST RESPONDERS, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL WORKERS AT THE FRONT LINES OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus 2019, known as COVID-19, has spread globally at a rapid pace; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has been identified as the worst pandemic in more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, because of this pandemic, Mayor Michael P. Victorino issued an emergency declaration for Maui County on March 4, 2020, and Governor David Y. Ige issued an emergency proclamation for the State of Hawaii on March 5, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the emergency proclamations have since been modified and extended numerous times, including requirements to stay at home and minimize interpersonal contact; and

WHEREAS, Maui County's first COVID-19 case was identified on March 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, after a steady increase in new cases, in recent weeks Maui County has thankfully seen many days with no new cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, while most Maui County residents have been sheltering in place, working from home, and taking other safety precautions, healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential workers have continued their responsibilities and tasks, despite the known risks, showing their dedication to community needs above self; and

WHEREAS, because of their commitment and dedication, the COVID-19 curve has flattened, at least for the time being; and

WHEREAS, a Hawaii News Now story on May 13, 2020, “On front lines of COVID-19 battle, nurses also find themselves fighting stigma,” reported on the personal sacrifices made by Maui’s heroic nurses, with reporter Chelsea Davis stating: “It’s been nearly two weeks since Maui’s main hospital admitted its last coronavirus patient, but for nurses on the front lines the emotional and even physical scars of the outbreak linger”; and

WHEREAS, Maui County police officers have sought to enforce the emergency orders and rules issued by Mayor Victorino and Governor Ige with diligence and fairness, and other first responders have worked to protect public safety throughout the unprecedented lockdown of most normal activity; and

WHEREAS, grocery-store workers, others in the food industry, and other workers deemed essential have reported to work to ensure Maui County’s families have access to food and other necessary products during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, most public- and private-sector employees have taken necessary steps to protect essential workers, it is vital that personal-protective equipment and other protections are consistently provided, especially to guard against another surge in COVID-19 infections; and

WHEREAS, it is also important to recognize the heroism of essential workers, including through local participation in the national “Light It Blue” campaign, as occurred with the public blue light display at Kalana O Maui, also known as the County Building, during the evening of May 22, 2020; now, therefore,

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

1. That it urges employers to ensure adequate workplace protection for healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential workers who must engage in interpersonal contact, including through the provision of sufficient personal-protective equipment;
2. That it recognizes the dedicated service of Maui County’s heroic healthcare workers, first responders, and other essential workers throughout the COVID-19 emergency and offers deep appreciation on behalf of a grateful citizenry; and
3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui, and the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii.