

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Mike J. Molina  
**Sent:** Friday, May 29, 2020 3:48 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** Gary Saldana; Maria C. Ornellas; Laura L. McDowell  
**Subject:** LEGISLATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE EFFECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, RULES, CARES ACT, AND RELATED ISSUES (EDB-85)  
**Attachments:** Covid\_19\_recom\_mayor01.pdf

Please include attached document to above referenced EDB Committee item.

Mike

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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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May 29, 2020

Honorable Michael P. Victorino  
Mayor, County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mayor Victorino:

**SUBJECT: CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT) CONSULTATION**

Per your correspondence dated May 26, 2020, please find herein recommendations for the expenditure of CARES Act Funds. First of all, I wish to thank you for the opportunity to provide my thoughts for the distribution of these valuable resources. The proper dissemination of these funds will maximize the benefit to our families in need.

**1. EXPANSION OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY LAULIMA PARTNERSHIP (H.E.L.P.)-**

- a. The H.E.L.P. program provides aid to individuals and families that have loss their job or experienced a reduction in income.
- b. According to statistics provided by the Managing Director, the H.E.L.P. program has received 2,820 applications for assistance.
- c. 2,011 of the applications have been approved, providing \$1,034,348 in funding assistance to families.
- d. Based on these numbers the average assistance per applicant is \$514.
- e. The maximum assistance per month is \$585 for a family of four.
- f. Both of these numbers seem very low considering the cost of living within the State of Hawaii.
- g. Additionally, with the Federal government at a stalemate for a second stimulus package for individuals in need, I believe it's time to up the ante.

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- h. The Administration set aside \$2 million for the H.E.L.P. program, I suggest we add another \$5 million to the program bringing the total to \$7 million and adjust the qualifications accordingly:
  - i. I would recommend doubling the maximum assistance in a 30 day period:
    - 1. \$880.00 for up to 2 family members
    - 2. \$1,170.00 for up to 4 family members
    - 3. \$1,460.00 for up to 6 family members
    - 4. \$1,760.00 for 7 or more family members
  - ii. Revise the asset qualification from less than \$5,000 to less than \$10,000 in liquid assets.
  - iii. Remove the requirement for a loss of 25% income after the March 4, 2020.
  - iv. Increase the funding for staffing to help expedite the processing of applications.
- i. We must realize the impacts from this pandemic goes well beyond low income families.
- j. No one is immune to the effects of this crisis, no matter what income level.
- k. This proposed increase will be a huge benefit to individuals and families in needs, by securing valuable resources to keep families fed and a roof over their head.
- l. Additionally, this will be a lift to our economy by inducing spending, use of local businesses and getting people back to work.
- m. With the loss of the visitor industry for an indefinite period of time, the injection of funding to our economy will help lessen the loss from the impacts to our hospitality industry.

**2. EMERGENCY LIMITED TERM EMPLOYMENT-**

- a. To get people back to work hire temporary employees on a 30, 60, 90 day period to assist with government projects, maintenance and clerical work.
- b. Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 76-77, Civil Service Law, allows temporary hires as needed to serve the public interest for up to 90 days to render temporary service.

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- c. Furthermore, HRS Section 76-77, notes the hiring of temporary employee can be accomplished for special or unique service or for essential public interest.
- d. Another option might be a temporary hiring grant program for businesses, which will provide funding assistance to pay a few months salaries for employees to help businesses get back on their feet and put people to work.
- e. The guidelines of the program could be set by the administration, but the intent of the program is to get people working and businesses operational, which will be a boost the economy.
- f. The employment program will put money in people's pocket, allow residents to contribute to economic revitalization and help boost their self-esteem.

Thank you for your consideration of my recommendations. Should you have any questions please contact me. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts for the use of CARES Act funding.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. MOLINA  
Councilmember

CM:MHP:outgoing\_covid\_19\_recom\_mayor01:grs

cc: