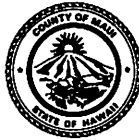


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Tasha Kama

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

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

September 9, 2021

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

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

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "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.