



'Ahahui o nā Kauka

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Aloha 'āina,

'Ahahui o nā Kauka, the Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians, *strongly urges* the State of Hawai'i to implement a two-step testing program with appropriate tracking technology to improve quarantine and contact tracing before opening to trans-Pacific visitors; and to allow the counties to implement the needed protective measures for their communities.

We are deeply concerned that the State's plan to restart tourism will cause harm to the people of Hawai'i. We are further dismayed to see that trans-Pacific travelers will be allowed to bypass mandatory quarantine with a single pre-flight travel test done 72 hours before arrival. There is ample evidence from other visitor destinations, both within and outside of the United States, that one-step testing has failed to control the influx of COVID-19. As physicians and as scientists, we are disheartened by the unnecessary risk being imposed, particularly on our most vulnerable populations, by scientifically and medically unsound policy.

In July, we urged the State to implement the evidence based Kaua'i model to safely receive visitors by mandating two tests and by utilizing tracking technology that will improve quarantine enforcement. Some counties have already procured testing supplies to implement a two-step testing program. This model has similarly been deployed globally and found to decrease COVID-19 travel risk. Even Dr. Libby Char, interim director of the state's Department of Health, has stated, "a second test should be added as soon as testing supplies and logistics make this feasible." We are disappointed that the State is insisting on a one-step testing plan.

Founded in 1998, 'Ahahui o nā Kauka is a membership organization committed to championing superior health care, which we do strategically through education and training, leadership and advocacy, and collaboration and community building. Our members care for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities, are on all islands and across the U.S. continent, are in emergency departments and rural clinics, are practicing in primary care and many specialties, and are serving in community health centers and private practices. All have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mālama kekahi i kekahi. Understanding that the well-being of our economy compels the State to plan for visitors, the industry must evolve. Any tourism plan should integrate George Kanahale's Ho'okipa model that wisely asserts that a sustainable hospitality industry "honors the place, dignifies the host and eventually satisfies the needs of the visitor." Preventing the spread of disease throughout our homeland and protecting the welfare of our residents is the pono thing to do and can only lead to a positive experience for visitors. After all, aloha is a reciprocal interaction.

O wau iho no me ka ha' a ha' a,

Noa Emmett Aluli, MD, President