



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Rachael <hudes.r@gmail.com>
To: testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 2:23 PM

Dear Hawaii State BOE,

I am a 7th and 8th grade teacher at Kailua Intermediate School. I was approved to telework from 9/4/2020 - 10/2/2020. The approval was granted shortly after Mayor Caldwell announced the most recent stay at home, work from home order.

I requested telework because I do not feel safe at work and I can do my job of distance teaching better from home. As of the first week of September:

- My classroom hadn't been cleaned since I scrubbed it clean at the end of July. The closet was covered in mold that I tried hard to remove.
- I was informed that there will be no room cleaner for my classroom this year. Apparently, my school has not been able to fill this vacancy for five years.
- Since students are not on campus, there are no room cleaners either, for all classrooms.
- The custodial staff is always busy but does not have time to disinfect highly used areas with frequency.
- The shared public bathrooms seem to be cleaned once a day, after lunch. I have seen the bathrooms in dirty conditions that made me feel unsafe prior to starting telework.
- Hallway trash cans were removed.
- I was instructed to take out the classroom trash myself. I was provided trash bags for this purpose.
- I have only been provided with a travel size hand sanitizer.
- I have not been provided any cleaning supplies, paper towels, or tissues.
- My classroom has no sink for quick access to hand washing.
- My classroom has no air conditioning and only has windows on one side of the room, which prevents a cross-breeze. It is hot and uncomfortable. I sweat with my mask on, reducing the efficacy of the mask.
- Adults have difficulty social distancing and wearing masks properly.
- My school has not demonstrated an ability to keep the campus clean and safe from biohazards.

Yesterday, September 29, 2020, I received an email stating that the Kailua-Kalaheo CAS has not approved an extension of telework for the second quarter and anyone who is currently teleworking is expected to arrive on site on October 12, 2020. The CAS previously announced that the complex area will continue the distance learning model through the second quarter. Why remove the telework option?

I have been thriving under my current telework agreement. Since I am an effective worker, I would like to continue to telework. I do not understand why the CAS will not allow it. Please consider the following benefits of telework for a person such as myself:

- As a result of telework, I work more because I have less personal prep time (such as packing/unpacking teaching materials, driving, making lunch, getting gas, etc.) on a daily basis.
- Because of telework, I work in sanitary conditions where I feel physically safe. I do not live with anxiety because of the risk of catching a deadly illness (like I do when I work on site). I have a clean well-stocked bathroom where I can wash my hands with warm water and soap. I never run out of cleaning supplies at home.
- Due to telework, I can still participate in faculty and department meetings which make me more productive due to its interactivity and feel included. I find that I can stay beyond the allotted time because I am not in a rush to get home because I am already at home. On another note, having online meetings make me feel like I have better interactions and relationships with people who are not in my department as well because I do have the time.
- As a result of telework, I have less interruptions and get more work done efficiently.
- In addition, teleworking has forced students to be more self-directed, working on self-discipline to complete assignments without teachers constantly reminding them. They are becoming better problem-solvers. Students are more focused on academics and less on trying to fit in.
- Telework allows me to work with an ergonomic desk/chair set-up. I don't have to wear a mask all day in a hot classroom that makes me sweat.

- Telework improves my mental health because I worry a lot about safety at the work site.

Please make it easier for teachers to telework while students are engaged with distance learning. It makes no sense to require me to report to the work site when I can teach remotely more effectively from home.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Rachael Hudes
ELA/Reading Teacher
Kailua Intermediate School

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Teva Feliciano <teva.feliciano@campbell.k12.hi.us>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 2:49 PM

Hello, my name is Teva Feliciano. I am a student at James Campbell High School. I am emailing regarding Action Item C. Board Action on directives regarding the Department of Education's use of Department of Health's *Guidance for Schools COVID-19* (revised as of September 16, 2020), including the applicability of Reopening Thresholds and Learning Model Parameters, criteria for transitioning between instructional delivery modes, decisions and notice of transitions, and suspension of transitions to hybrid and in-person learning. We should not return back to school and continue online learning because going back to school we will be exposed to people.

While we are in these hard times, I know students want to go back to school and interact with friends and teachers but if we do go back to school we all will be exposed to one another. Yes, we may have masks on during school but what about during breaks? Will students take off their mask while hanging out with friends and sharing drinks and whatnot. These are things all friends do and while each other don't know if they have been exposed to a person with COVID or one of the friends does have COVID it will spread throughout that friend group. Not only will it affect the people in the friend group but also the friend's family members then the family members have to go to work or grocery stores spreading the virus even more bringing the cases back up.

This is my opinion on why we should not go back to school and why we should continue online learning until everyone is safe and healthy and ready to take our life off pause and continue what we love to do and enjoy while being safe.

Sincerely,

Teva Feliciano



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Jaydon Texeira <jaydon.teixeira@campbell.k12.hi.us>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 2:51 PM

Hi, I am a sophomore that attends James Campbell Highschool. Honestly last year as a freshman in school my highest GPA was a 2.6, and I blamed it on my teacher, even though I knew it was because I had no self-discipline when it came to talking to my friends being disrespectful to be funny. Now that I have experienced online school, I love it. I am focused. I now have 2 A's and 2 B's. There are no distractions in the class you can't really have distractions, unless you are on your phone, but if it comes to that point you just don't care.

I had to talk to some teachers about what they think about it. Most would rather come back, but some were talking about distraction, disobedience, etc. "It is less hectic when it comes to worrying about if people understand, and distractions" said my History teacher. But she also said "It is hectic when I have to translate all my work online, but I already could tell that the kids are doing their work and most of them are focused."

I talked to my friends, and most said the same thing. Some said they miss being at school, we all obviously miss our sports. My sleep schedule is so nice though, because I wake up at 7:50 make breakfast, and go to class. whereas I would go to sleep at 10:30 wake up 5:30 shower, make breakfast, meal prep, and make my bag for wrestling like everything was more hectic.

Taking in the Covid-19 and everything we should probably stay on the online classes till there is no more cases active. Honestly that would be in like 3 years.

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

mtsukayama@hawaii.rr.com <mtsukayama@hawaii.rr.com>

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 3:47 PM

To: "testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov>

Dear BOE Members,

I am writing testimony for Action Items B and C for the October 1, 2020 board meeting.

Thank you, Chair Payne, for your care and concern for teachers and the school communities as is evident in your proposal that the DOE suspend changes to learning modes until clear and specific guidance for schools are adopted, as well as your support for the allowance of more teleworking. I have listened to the many hours of BOE meeting discussion and feel that the Board, as a whole, has been hearing teachers' voices and is genuinely concerned for our health and safety. I am truly grateful to all Board members for that.

Regarding in person learning, I do not believe schools are ready to reopen. Let me be clear that it is not that teachers do not want to reopen. Teaching virtually has been stressful and unbelievably time consuming. Most, if not all, teachers would love nothing more than to be teaching face to face in the ways they were accustomed. They are anxiously awaiting a time when it will be safe to do so. I completely agree that schools cannot only rely on numbers but must meet other criteria before even considering reopening. I also agree that the documents have been many, confusing and sometimes even contradictory.

My primary concern with not being ready is cleaning. We are asking the same number of custodians, in the same amount of time, to do more than double the work. I am not a math teacher but that seems statistically impossible. In the past, when cleaning could not be done thoroughly, teachers would be flexible and okay with trash pick-up only. Today, while teachers are empathetic to the amount of work that has to be done to clean AND sanitize our schools, we cannot be okay with the cleaning guidelines not being strictly followed each and every day. The state has pushed for us to return to in person learning with no extra positions or increase in work hours for our custodians. How are they supposed to be able to keep up with all of their tasks? It is not as if they had hours to spare in previous years. I appreciate our custodial staff and all they do for our school. I feel awful that they are often hearing how this or that has not been done. We have praised them for all their hard work in the past and now that is overshadowed by what they are not doing, to no fault of their own. We need to support them and give them what they need to do the job to the standards that were set. Until that can be done, we should not even discuss the next steps.

I often hear that private schools are opening so public should also. The requirements for health and safety are much more comprehensive in private schools. Public schools are not even taking temperatures or offering testing. Private schools also have more MONEY! Public schools are told to try their best to meet guidelines. This is not a time when trying can be acceptable. We do not want to literally "die trying".

Chair Payne's stated that 6 feet distancing and mask wearing should be done at all times. I completely agree. However, will we be able to meet that standard with what we have in place? While we again "try our best" there is no way to keep children from socializing with their peers. Teachers are often put in uncomfortable situations where they must decide if they will aid a student in need or keep their separation. That is an unfair position to be put in. Some staff and students are more concerned about contracting COVID while others aren't. That creates more discomfort and uneasiness. Additionally, students have come to school with no masks, too big masks, filthy masks, reused masks, etc. We have also had students come to school with symptoms of illness despite repeated notices to keep sick children at home. Everyone, including administrators, staff, students and parents are all trying however there are just too many unknowns with COVID to take any chances.

Also of great concern is that the islands will be opened to travel the same week as schools are scheduled to start in person learning, blended or full. The possibilities of problems are many. The level of worry is high. The fearful thoughts are endless. While I understand there are economic needs, the timing could not be worse.

Regarding telework, I believe that all teachers and staff who can do their work from home as effectively as they do on a school campus should be allowed to telework as much as their job assignments allow. It reduces the number of people on campus and as a result is better for all members of the school community. Working without worry or fear of being exposed to COVID-19 will also boost energy and concentration. A huge weight will be lifted. The telework guidelines state that the characteristics of successful teleworkers usually include the following traits:

demonstrate dependability and the ability to handle responsibility, high level of productivity, ability to work with minimal direct supervision, high level of personal motivation, high level of skill and job knowledge, good organizational and time management skills. These characteristics could also be used to describe the majority of teachers I know and work with. I don't think the state would lose out on productivity or effectiveness if teachers work from home. Teachers have a work ethic unlike any other. Their loyalty and dedication are to their students first and foremost regardless of other factors. I ask that you entrust teachers to work from home whenever possible and requested.

Lastly, I ask that you please do not have lesser standards of safety for reopening Kauai schools due to our low numbers of the virus. We have an impressive mayor who has made difficult decisions to keep us safe. Please do not make us the "guinea pigs" to try out reopening for in person learning. As for other districts, it should not be considered until first adopting clear, specific and high-level standard guidelines and assuring that they can be followed. Kauai is different, yes. But we should be treated with the same amount of care and concern as all other districts.

I apologize that this is late. I could go on and on. I'm sure others will share the sentiments I have missed. I once again thank you for keeping teachers in your hearts and minds while considering the needs of the entire school system. I cannot be easy, and I appreciate your long hours of thoughtful consideration to all issues that have come up during this time. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Misty Tsukayama
Student Services Coordinator
Eleele School
Kauai District

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Re: DOE use of DOH Guidance for Schools COVID-19

1 message

Andrew Guay <guay.andrew89@gmail.com>

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 4:17 PM

To: "Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov" <Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov>

On Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 12:22 PM Andrew Guay <guay.andrew89@gmail.com> wrote:

Aloha,

I would like to submit this testimony in support to begin transitioning student to in person instruction. As I see it, the BOE has (had) a good plan to bring student back via a hybrid model in August. Then we had a spike in Covid cases. Now that we are infection rate is decreasing, I don't think the state can afford to delay the transition to in person instruction any longer. School complexes have had since April to figure out a plan to implement this, and did in fact have one ready in August. It is infuriating that the HSTA (who claims to have the best interest of our children) keeps stonewalling the inevitable. We can't afford to wait for the distribution of a vaccine. We have personal hygiene and social distancing rules that will allow for the relatively safe return of students.

If private schools and daycare facilities like kamaaina kids and the ymca can safely have students why can't public schools? It is a great disservice to our youngest learners as well who are deprived of the socialization foundations that are essential to learning. Those who can afford to go private will. Those who can afford to homeschool will. The rest of the children suffer.

Regards, Andrew Guay

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Karly Kanehiro <karly.kanehiro@campbell.k12.hi.us>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 4:26 PM

This is testimony that my students wanted to provide before the BOE. Thank you for listening to the concerns of all of those that are involved with the reopening of schools.

 [EE1B29DA-959A-40F9-B56B-D494D4F3AA78.MOV](#)

 [IMG_4449.MOV](#)

 [lv_0_20200930121836.mp4](#)

 [Opportunity #5_ Send in Video \(Sep 28, 2020 at ...](#)

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Thank you,

Karly Kanehiro

World History and MHH/PID Teacher
Anime Club co-advisor, World History lead, FOL lead

Room: M-104

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: karly.kanehiro@campbell.k12.hi.us

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LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony for tomorrow's meeting Oct 1, 1:30pm1 message

Wendy Berry <gwendita@hotmail.com>

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 7:50 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

9-30-2020

Dear Board of Education members,

This comment is for tomorrow's Board of Education Special meeting and is in response to Agenda Action item III.C.

As a parent with a student in a charter school on the Big Island, I DO NOT support the recommendation by BOE chair Catherine Payne that "the Board suspend changes to instructional delivery modes for all schools until the Superintendent incorporates the directives stated herein into the applicable guidance documents."

Our local schools have been working hard on solutions that work for our individual communities and I feel it's time to reopen schools and follow the latest State Health Department metrics for reopening. Parents and keiki have been waiting since August. We need to move forward now. My school has health and safety plans in place for Covid 19 that are more than adequate.

Mahalo for your time,

Wendy Berry

Parent of student attending Kua O Ka La Charter school, Big Island

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony- DOE teleworking

1 message

Kelly E Duell, MA, NBCT <mautechgirl@gmail.com>
To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 9:14 PM

Good day BOE,

Below are the requirements for Kealakehe Elementary School teachers who request telework. Cannot telework on Wednesday, can only do two weeks then must have a meeting with admin to review it. A lot of paperwork is required before, during, and after the two weeks. It feels like the principal is punishing teachers requesting to telework and making it near impossible to actually do all their ridiculous requirements.

Board Members, please give all management of DOE to stop all the micromanaging, stop the ridiculous requirements, stop punishing teachers, and approve all telework requests.

Very tired of all the non sense management is doing and their complete lack of caring for teachers.

Thank you,
Kelly E. Duell, MA, NBCT

Kealakehe Elementary School Travel Quarantine Options

Option 1: Covid-19 Emergency Paid Leave Form DOE OTM 300-030

- Paid leave due to mandatory quarantine
 - Teacher Requirements
 - First 5 school days:
 - Provide Asynchronous Lessons Plans (grade level or individual).
 - Use generic lesson plans already in Google Drive Folder,
 - or
 - Create specific asynchronous lesson plans
 - Days 6 and beyond:
 - Try to secure a substitute teacher
 - Ensure technological access for substitute to provide instruction and student work through your virtual platform(s), such as:
 - Google Meets/Google Classroom
 - ClassDojo
 - SeeSaw

Option 2: Telework during Quarantine Period

- First complete the **Request for Participation in the Telework Program** form (situational approval).
- Upon approval of request, complete the **Telework Safety and Security Checklist Employee Self-Certification** form, **Telework Agreement Form**, and **Equipment Issued to Teleworking Employee**
 - Upon approval of telework for duration of quarantine, teachers will work from home until cleared to return to work
 - Requirements: Continue to follow distance learning expectations

[DISTANCE LEARNING EXPECTATIONS FOR TEACHERS](#)

- Continue to work during the regular school hours (7:45am - 2:05pm)
 - Complete the **Teleworker Time/Attendance Sheet**
 - *If you become sick or you need to take a personal day, you must call TSEAS and request the appropriate leave*
- Ensure parents/guardians have a phone number that they can contact you during your telework period.
 - Google Voice or Cell Phone Number
- Ensure Admin has access to your synchronous instruction
 - Notify your grade level admin if a deviation from your synchronous instruction listed on your weekly schedule is going to occur
 - If admin pops into a lesson, do not acknowledge their present, continue with your instruction/activity
- Upon completion of telework and return to campus
 - Employee complete **Telework Status Report: Employee Report** (provided by Grade Level Admin) within 2 days of returning from quarantine
 - Grade Level Admin complete **Telework Status Report: Supervisor Report**
 - Schedule meeting with Grade Level Admin to complete Telework process within 1 week of returning from Quarantine

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

NO PERSONAL INFORMATION

1 message


To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 10:01 PM

 **"Complaining Parents" - Letter to BOE**

LATE

To the Board of Education Members,

As a teacher, I really resent that attitude of some parents who believe that “**teachers’ lives don’t matter**”. It almost feels like these “*complaining parents*” are just concerned with their pocketbooks or their own “*peace of mind*”. It seems that these “*complaining parents*” are willing to throw their own children to the wolves to be eaten. Our priority should be for those in the trenches: The students and the teachers only. My assumption is that it’s not truly about education. *If this were true, ask the “complaining parents” when was the last time they logged into InfiniteCampus to check their child’s grade?* Some “*complaining parents*” are willing to risk their children’s lives and the lives of others **to get what they want: a break FROM their children** and/or “**socialization**” **despite the risk to others** and they claim that children living in poor home situations **need to be taught face-to-face** during the pandemic in order to for teachers to identify their household problems.

Speaking of high school “socialization”, in my opinion, **it is over-rated**. High school can destroy one’s self-esteem and become a burden because not all children fit into the “high school mold” of popularity, cheerleading, sports, beauty, boyfriend/girlfriends, social media, cliques, peer pressure and bullying -- and many kids get lost in the mix of things, don’t connect and/or become loners anyway. Ultimately, parents should be the ones who have choice and control over their children’s social life. They are the ones who decide who their children should come in contact with. Socialization is extracurricular not true academic education; therefore, the burden of socialization should not be on the teachers. As a teacher, it feels really nice to be able to focus on the craft of teaching (the reason I got all my degrees and certificates) and on my students’ learning. Even so, with the pandemic, teachers won’t even be able to put students in small groups or with learning partners. These are reasons that are (for now) in the past, and in order to forge ahead with education and our students in mind, distance learning is the solution.

On another note, “*complaining parents*” enjoy accusing teachers of **not earning their pay** and accusing teachers **as if they don’t care** about the children, but that is a LIE. Just because we care about ourselves, too? God forbid. If the “*complaining parent*” can gamble their own children’s lives, then they apparently don’t give a hoot about ours, the teachers. **In the meantime, teachers are still providing students with the best education online that a highly-qualified teacher can give under the given circumstances. Moreover, others claim that the children with poor living conditions need teachers** to be face-to-face in order to check on them. However, **this claim is NOT true, and besides, isn’t that what social workers, behavioral specialists and therapists are for?** Imagine all the jobs being generated.

The fact is... Teachers can see their faces on the camera (online - in class and in study hall), and build rapport with their students. Then, teachers can survey their students and/or ask them probing questions, if necessary. For example, one of my students who is not faring well in my class told me on an online survey that “I need to talk to someone about my home life” and “I want to change classes”. Without this online survey, I probably would have never been made aware of the situation with him. **Therefore, one can not argue with the fact that students (especially high school students) feel safer to express their needs online** and to say what they can not say out loud. In fact, **students enjoy using this type of technology as a method of preferred communication**. There are many ways to monitor and assess the living conditions of our students... anonymously and online. Going back to the matter of “socialization”, **older students prefer to be glued to a screen**. Many of my students have told me that they do miss school but that **students do indeed enjoy having**

classes like college students do. In fact, most parents can agree that using technology may be the only way that they can get their kids motivated and keep their attention.

COVID IS REAL

From the beginning, I questioned the validity of the coronavirus until my sister (a Hawaii bus driver) got extremely sick. She looks terrible and has “recovered”??? She tries to tell us that she didn’t get it, but she was never tested. Even so, I have NEVER in my life seen my sister look THAT sick. EVER. She looks like the bus actually hit her. She is still very weak, gaunt and withdrawn. Under her eyes are black and her face sunk in. Normally, she is vibrant and always concerned with her image. *Covid has wiped her out and taken a toll on her body. She looks like a cancer victim. (My brother died of cancer).* I am so thankful for telework because I do not EVER want to get what she got. Believe me, this has *changed my mind about the Covid conspiracy theories. Covid is real, people, and it hasn’t gone away yet.*

Isn’t this whole matter about the SPREAD of a contagious airborne virus??? Why do people insist on throwing their students into the classroom only to be separated from their friends and the teacher, all while sweating, and not receiving proper ventilation in our 90+ degree classrooms without any mercy breeze coming through. Without wind, our classrooms become hermetically sealed places where infection can rear its ugly head and run rampant. Oh, can you imagine the lawsuits that will come? Simply because our leaders refuse to heed the call.

With our friendly tourists returning to our islands, can you imagine us going back into lockdown once again with even harsher restrictions? What will it take for our leaders to listen? How many of our friends, neighbors and ‘ohana NEED to get sick and/or NEED to die?

As a teacher who is quarantining, if I am prematurely forced back into the classroom, I will tell you what I am going to do (along with other teachers I have talked to).

- 1.) I am going to sequester myself at my desk (and babysit like the "complaining parents" think we do) and I will instruct my students from there. Nothing is going to change, but my physical location.
- 2.) I will tell my students to open up their laptops because I can not give them pens and paper, nor will I receive them back. Students will have a difficult time seeing me, unless they view me from their computers at their desks.
- 3.) I will tell my students that they will not be allowed to **approach me**, nor will I approach them.
- 4.) I will tell my students that they will not be allowed to approach **other students** (in my class)

How is this “socialization”?????

At this point, it will become “every man for himself” and I will do anything and EVERYTHING to **protect myself**, if my leaders can’t or won’t do it for me.

- 4.) **Therefore, all of my instruction will be as if the students were still at home.**

Honestly, if these "complaining parents" truly cared anything about their children’s lives and the lives of the people they come in contact with, they would **get real and keep their children home**. As a teacher, I have been working extra long hours (from home) trying to have lessons in visual form for my students everyday, sometimes even crying tears at 2 or 3 in the morning because I am exhausted and working non-stop. I care about my students and *wished that I could get the same care* from some of these "complaining parents".



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Quarter 2 James Dingus

1 message

James Dingus <dingus4@icloud.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 10:03 PM

I am an 8th grade social studies teacher at Chiefess Kamakahelei Middle School.

I am giving testimony for different issues.

First, the chain of command seems confusing. The Superintendent said that she was waiting for guidelines from the Dept. of Health.

Around the same time the Superintendent said that every CAZ had the authority to open, close, or create blended steps at each school site.

The CAZ around my area has given power to each school's administration. In other times that would be fantastic.

Nowadays this is hectic! My school site administrators are working extremely hard, but they do not know an answer to this. Admin has asked teachers to create a schedule!!

There is no clear plan to get students back to school safely. The Dept of Health and DOE are not guiding our state! It could create a catastrophe to open the state to visitors and have students go back to school at the same time. You have the power to prevent this!

Keep us safe by extending distance learning! Please!

Secondly, if there are no children in school, why does the DOE require teachers to be in school? Other industries have moved to telework! Teachers should be trusted to work from a distance since no kids are on the campus.

Sent from my iPad

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

The power of teleworking while teaching

1 message

Kanani F. <kananifun@gmail.com>
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 10:15 PM

To the Board of Education:

I made a list of reasons (along with another teacher) why teleworking makes sense (at least at the high school level).

There are some who say that kids are not getting their work done and that students don't understand... I'm tired of hearing that excuse.

Let's get real... The reason that many kids don't get their homework assignments done is because:

- 1.) MANY (not all) parents don't even check their grades on InfiniteCampus and/or are too tired to stay on top of their child's education.
- 2.) Many students (not all) don't come to study hall and/or
- 3.) Many students (not all) just don't CARE to do the assignment(s).

Please remember: Teachers have been experiencing these issues even WHEN WE ALL WERE IN THE CLASSROOM!

REASONS TELEWORK WORKS FOR HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS:

1. Due to telework, I work more because I have less personal prep time (such as packing/unpacking teaching materials, driving, making lunch, getting gas etc.) on a daily basis.
2. Due to telework, I'm never late for work or rushing so I have less stress.
3. Due to telework, I don't have to endure any more hot classrooms - I don't have to teach with a mask on in which students can't hear me with clarity and can't see my facial expressions. Even so, in a classroom, I can't approach them anyhow.
4. Due to telework, I can still participate in faculty and department meetings which make me more productive due to its interactivity and feel included. I find that I can stay beyond the allotted time because I am not in a rush to get home because I am already at home. On another note, having online meetings make me feel like I have better interactions and relationships with people who are not in my department as well because I do have the time.
5. Due to telework, I feel physically safe - No more potential or risk of school violence (e.g., school shooting threats, bomb threats, school fights, etc.) and no more risk of catching someone else's illness.
6. Due to telework - No more extremely loud lawnmowers that overpower my voice or PA announcements that interrupt instruction.
7. Due to telework - It's nice having a CLEAN, well-stocked bathroom with HOT WATER readily available and nearby - so my bladder doesn't explode. I no longer am scared to sit on a toilet and have a cockroach crawl out or a frog hop in beside me (bees, spiders, centipedes and wasps, too).
8. Due to telework - There are few incidents of misbehavior and interruptions (e.g., side conversations, etc.) from students.
9. Due to telework - There is no need to set up or decorate a classroom using my own personal funds

10. Due to telework, I have MORE time to monitor and focus on the students "work" as they are working on it. Inside the classroom, there are too many distractions and many student's chatting instead of working. Students can get immediate feedback while I telework instead of me having to monitor a room of students where anything can happen. I can quickly assess who has finished their assignments and who is still working. I can also identify through their text responses their understanding of the content and give them immediate feedback in writing. All of this is considered documented evidence. For the students who don't understand the lesson, it makes it easier for me to identify and help them online.

REASONS WHY TELEWORK BENEFITS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

1. Due to telework, students feel physically safe - No more potential or risk of school violence (e.g., school shooting threats, bomb threats, school fights, etc.) and no more risk of catching someone else's illness.
2. In addition, teleworking puts the responsibility back on the student learner and the parents where it belongs. Students are becoming more self-directed, working on self-discipline to complete assignments without teachers constantly on them. They are becoming better problem-solvers. Students are more focused on academics and less on trying to fit in.
3. Due to telework, students are doing work that is more conducive to the 21st century because everything is online.
4. Due to me teleworking, students don't have to put themselves "out there" to get help and worry about peers making fun of them. They can privately message me during instruction via email.
5. In addition, study hall feels more personalized and individualized for each student because of telework and distance learning.
6. While teleworking, I observe that students seem more engaged and focused on their education because they get to look at their phones and they get to use technology. The fact that teachers are not getting on them about it, and actually encouraging them to use technology is such a relief to me. I support it.
7. Teleworking allows less misbehaving and distractions so that students can enjoy learning again.
7. Distance learning model is good for preparing students for college.
8. Students have less peer pressure and bullying when older students can telework from home.

REASONS TELEWORK BENEFITS ME & THE DOE:

On a personal note, the biggest advantage of teleworking for me was this week when I suddenly felt sick in the middle of the day. At lunch I was able to take a shower and refresh myself enough so that I could continue teaching the rest of my classes. Additionally there was no need for me to have to go home early or to get a substitute teacher; thus, saving the department of education money that they could have spent on a substitute teacher.

MAYBE WE SHOULD BE RE-THINKING EDUCATION IN HAWAII????



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

NO PERSONAL INFORMATION

1 message


to: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 10:24 PM

 **Testimony for BOE Meeting 10-2-2020.pdf**
60K

LATE

TESTIMONY FOR: STATE OF HAWAII BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING - OCTOBER 1, 2020

Aloha Honorable Board Members,
Thank you for taking the time to review my testimony.

AGENDA ITEM III

- Support for Teleworking
- Oppose use of DOH's Guidance for Schools

B. Board Action on directives regarding telework availability for teachers: Board intent, telework approval criteria, and telework termination restrictions

Some principals and / or Complex Area Superintendents are not granting teachers who are teaching 100% virtually to Telework. Allowing as many people to Telework will minimize the spread of COVID-19 to the benefit of our State.

Wahiawa Middle School principal has denied all teacher requests for teleworking, even though there were already 2 positive cases of employees on campus and multiple exposures.

Let's protect our Kupuna and each other, allow all who are able to and request to Telework to do so. Let's stop the spread, save lives, and keep people healthy. Not everyone will be as lucky as the Lt. Governor with only a mild case and not permanent / long lasting health impairments. Who will support those who become disabled from this virus and unable to work? I guess one way to look at deaths of our elderly faculty and staff is that the State will save money because the more senior employees are usually in the higher pay bracket.

C. Board Action on directives regarding Department of Education's use of Department of Health's *Guidance for Schools COVID-19* (revised as of September 16, 2020), including applicability of Reopening Thresholds and Learning Model Parameters, criteria for transitioning between instructional delivery modes, decisions and notice of transitions, and suspension of transitions to hybrid and in-person learning

I oppose to use the current DOH guidance because it is too liberal. I actually don't believe students should be allowed back on campus for this whole school year, because the DOE is NOT capable of making schools a safe work place for students, faculty and staff.

Every week since the start of this school year, classes have been closed and / or faculty, staff and administrators have had to quarantine due to exposure and infection of COVID-19, at Nanakuli High and Intermediate School. If you check the website you will see two letters posted of the positive cases. What the letters do not tell you is how many faculty and staff have had to stay home, as well as some of our vulnerable on campus students. If we did have the hybrid system now, several hundred students would have had to quarantine during this first quarter.

Special Education teachers have yet to receive the PPE they need due to the inability to safely distance from their students. DOE also does not have any plan to provide sneeze guards or any type of protective barriers between students-students and teachers.

Sending students back will not support our economy, but instead cause chaos with the constant quarantines that will occur. Sending students back to schools will increase the number of infections and will further damage our economy. Many of our students also do not get the Flu shot, although it is provided for free in schools, usually only about 1/4 of all students will get the Flu shot.

These are very challenging times for students, but we do not have enough school counselors or behavioral health specialist to provide the grief counseling that will be needed once schools reopen.

If I had faith in the DOE to provide us with the safest possible environment to bring students back on campus, I would support this. However, DOE is unable to keep campuses clean now, with only the vulnerable students on campus. The DOE will not spend money for professional cleaning, but custodians are put at risk with having to disinfect classrooms without appropriate PPE.

Again, thank you for your time for reviewing my testimony. Stay healthy!



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY

1 message

Brandon Cha <brandoncha3@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Wed, Sep 30, 2020 at 10:48 PM

Aloha Board of Education Members,

I am a teacher at a Pearl City school and am testifying in support of both items B and C on the October 1 agenda.

I applaud the BOE for proposing to create greater oversight of the telework policy used by the DOE. I believe it has not been applied equitably across the state and across teaching descriptions (SPED teachers), and safety is a major issue when considering the impact of denied requests for teachers who are scared. Please consider moving forward with your proposal regarding telework in Agenda Item B.

Regarding Item C, I applaud you for realizing the severity of considerations to haphazardly re-open schools in an attempt to regain a sense of normalcy. The virus does not care about our communities struggles to adapt to distance learning - it will simply continue to reinfect us the minute restrictions are loosened, heading right into Flu season this fall. Maintaining distance learning is the appropriate thing to do for AT LEAST the rest of the quarter. Distance learning is not ideal, but this virus will not abate without a vaccine in sight, and a distance learning student is better than an infected student, in my opinion. Your staff and keiki will appreciate your thoughtful decisions in the long run. I appreciate your guideline reinforcing these ideas, and encourage you to move forward with your proposal for Agenda Item C.

Thank you very much for your time.

- Brandon Cha

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony for Kailua Complex Area Meeting 10/1/20201 message

cynthia white <cinluhu1@icloud.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 5:32 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of a 1st grader in Kailua. I'm astounded at the lack of leadership for our children's education. Why is it that the Kailua Complex is the only area on the island not going back to in person schooling this year? Our children are essential, their education is essential, their socialization with peers & their teacher is essential. Do you think that a 1st grader being taught through a computer screen with constant glitches & kids talking is an education? Most people have other children or jobs or both! Private schools have been operating in person all summer. Preschools have been operating in person all summer. Why can't our public school kids get an education in person? My kids aren't privileged enough to go to private school. We are going to open up for tourists to come, but our kids can't get an in person education? You have to do better for our children, especially the young ones. This is unacceptable! Our children deserve better, they want to learn, they are depressed not being in school, give them the education they deserve. If you need to talk to private schools to see how they have been completely successful than do that, do it for our children as they are our future.

Thank you for your time.

Cindy Kelly
Kailua

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Telework - Management Preogative

1 message

Kathleen Dimino <kathleen.dimino@k12.hi.us>
To: Testimony.BOE@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 6:57 AM

This email is to present testimony on Action Item III B - Telework

The DOE Telework Guideline state that the Telework Program is a management prerogative. It is imperative that the prerogative remain intact to ensure that the needs of the students are put at the forefront of these decisions.

There has been no data to indicate that principals are denying these requests unless the needs of their students were at risk. If administrators are denying these requests without cause, there are grievance procedures put into place to address these types of issues.

The language in the Memo from Chair Payne under Recommendation IV 2 states that the Superintendent will give a directive to administrators stating that administrators "will approve telework..." The statement takes the prerogative rights away from the supervisors who have the direct knowledge of their students' needs. This statement puts the safety of our students at risk.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathleen Dimino
Complex Area Superintendent
Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui Complex
[REDACTED]
kathleen.dimino@k12.hi.us

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Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Cindy Ku <cindymku@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 7:25 AM

Written testimony for Oct 1, 2020 Special Meeting

Dear board members,

I am writing with regards to item #3, and IN SUPPORT OF DOE and Superintendent Kishimoto in allowing each school district to determine the return to in-person instruction, in conjunction with the district's community and in accordance with the CDC/HIDOH recommendations.

Further universal delay of returning to some degree of in-person instruction by HSTA will worsen the overall public school system in Hawaii. Students with insufficient adult supervision at home will suffer academically. Families with ability to transition to independent schools, which face the same public health issues as public schools but have managed to find solutions, will likely leave the state system, which will further decrease the per-student budget of the overall system. Less students lead to less funding, which will lead to the need to eliminate teaching positions, which further leads to laying off the young teachers and the most recently hired teachers. For what it's worth, US News and World report ranks Hawaii public K-12 system as 30rd in the nation for its public school system, and will likely drop even further. The divide between the have's and have-not's will widen. Ultimately, those who will suffer the most are the most vulnerable *keiki* of Hawaii.

As an anesthesiologist working with colleagues on the front line and performing high risk procedures on known COVID patients, I deeply appreciate and share the public health concerns on the spread of COVID-19 and the necessary measures to "flatten the curve". As a parent to 2nd and 5th Grade students at Aina Haina in East Honolulu, I am also deeply troubled by the response from the entire public education system in Hawaii.

Despite the "horror stories" of the Hawaii public school system, we did our research when we relocated to Hawaii late last year and decided to give the public schools a shot - we recognize the problem of "brain drain" from the public school system and would like to be part of the solution than the problem. Our sons started at Aina Haina in January and had just begun to make friends when COVID hit the islands. March spring break turned into permanent stay-at-home order for our two children, who have essentially no friends through the school community that would normally be an integral part of childhood. It was difficult but necessary at the time because we didn't know how bad it would be, and our healthcare systems needed as much time to prepare as possible. At the same time, our school's vice principal, Mr. Gayer, had already started preparing our school to return to in-person education. Working with our school PTA, our school was ready to return in hybrid model in August. We were very pleased with the preparations, which is similar to the format seen in Taiwan. Every student desk had clear upright barriers, students are all provided with decorated face shields, we had adequate ventilation, there was one-way traffic in and out of classrooms and spaces, appropriate plans for social distancing, hand washing, and so forth, and a reduced class size that allows for appropriate social distancing. We are thankful and fortunate that we live in a beautiful state where outdoor education can take place year round.

Unfortunately, the indiscretions by small numbers of the public led to the COVID surge and disruption of ALL Oahu students' education, and we have again been stranded at home. It has placed a tremendous amount of pressure on full time working parents like ourselves and many others as we are asked to take on part of the education at home. While we are fortunate to have live-in childcare support by my parents, other families - particularly those with single parents - may not have that support, not to mention families affected by COVID who by the nature of quarantine do not have childcare support. It's not only that children need to have adult supervision, but the distance learning requires active participation of us as parents to help our children. My sons are fairly tech savvy at their ages, but we do need to help our 2nd grader quite a bit in terms of using the technology. I can't imagine first graders learning remotely with no adult help - Zoom meeting with fifteen 6-7 year olds and asking them to sit still is a Herculean task. Many families I know in mainland have already withdrawn their young children from public school remote learning because it has been disastrous.

We also know now that there is not going to be a return to pre-COVID era. Until a safe and effective vaccine is developed and used by majority of population, COVID is here to stay. That is the fact, and we all will have to live with constant vigilance of the virus and means to manage: universal masking and eye protection first and foremost, frequent hand hygiene, symptom checks, social distancing, and widespread cooperation among the community with all of this. We know this works because some of our youngest members of community have been in school already - preschoolers have been back at school at many institutions since August. Some independent schools have also returned to in-person education

with no known COVID outbreaks. Our children participated in the Summer Fun program in Kahala in July with all the appropriate precautions in place and they had a great time with no outbreaks. Our school has been ready since August, and we had no reason or concern to not send them to school. Although I had not interviewed our teachers explicitly, the interactions we've had suggested they were ready as well.

Given such, Superintendent Kishimoto's directive - to allow each district to determine its time table to return to in-person - makes sense. It is regretful that Dept of Education and the State could not help each and every school in their COVID preparation; statewide preparation would have ensured equal opportunity for every student in the public school system to return to school safely and for every educator to have the protective equipment they need, rather than everyone fending for themselves. As an anesthesiologist I perform some of the highest risk procedures on known-COVID-positive patients; I understand the fear of the educators, but the chance of them contacting someone with COVID at school and unprotected is the same as the chance of doing so at a grocery store. Instead of fighting to keep everyone out of school, the public's focus needs to be how we can help our educators feel safe - by providing them with adequate level of PPE, by making sure ALL of us practice good health hygiene and follow public health measures, by banning large outdoor gatherings under 10x10 canopies seen in beaches and parks and enforcement of such.

My 5th grade son and his classmates had a homework assignment yesterday: to make arguments for or against returning back to school in person. Most of his classmates argued to return to school. My son, who has not made any substantial relationship at school, is now afraid to go back to school and has developed significant anxiety. We all need to adjust to the "new normal" and we need to focus on how to help each of our school and community in doing so, and not a blanket universal elimination on in-person teaching. Public education for all *keiki* should not suffer because of a lack of preparation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Cindy M. Ku, MD
Honolulu, HI

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony for return of students face to face

1 message

Nicole DeCosta <ndecosta808@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 8:03 AM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Agenda C

There is no reason that these kids should not be back in school face to face. Their mental health is declining.. as the CDC numbers show that the risk of this virus is much lower then the flu.

Please get these kids back to school! If people at Target, Costco and Walmart etc can work this entire time seeing thousands of people a day, then clearly there's no reason these teachers can see the same group of kids every day!

I would like to know what the numbers of suicide are and kids that are having to see counselors on the regular, or the amount of children being abused at home because home is not the "safest place" for them!

There's one thing I can tell you that there's many families planning a class action lawsuit, so if don't get these kids back to school as normal as possible then be prepared...

Florida schools have been open and their numbers have never spiked, in fact they have decreased dramatically! Please get these kids back to school!

Mahalo!

Nicole

Ndecosta808@gmail.com

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Kristine Barker <kristine96734@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 9:29 AM

Kristine Barker

Meeting: Special

Agenda item: C. Board Action on directives regarding Department of Education's use of Department of Health's *Guidance for Schools COVID-19* (revised as of September 16, 2020), including applicability of Reopening Thresholds and Learning Model Parameters, criteria for transitioning between instructional delivery modes, decisions and notice of transitions, and suspension of transitions to hybrid and in-person learning

Position: My family supports in-person learning for our children

Aloha Board Of Education Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my written testimony. I am a mother of two boys, one in 1st grade and the other in preschool. My testimony reflects the opinions of my parents, both of which are considered high risk for COVID, and my mother is a former school teacher of over 20 years in Hawaii. My testimony also reflects the opinions of my sisters-in-law both of whom own and operate a preschool and are deemed essential, caring for 50 infants and toddlers at the moment. Lastly, my testimony reflects the opinions of my son, 3 nieces and 4 nephews all of whom attend Kailua public schools in 8th grade, 4th grade, 2nd grade, 1st grade and kindergarten. My family as a whole, supports children returning to face-to-face learning to be with their peers and learn from their teachers. We support this model because we have seen the lack of engagement, the sadness, the confusion, the frustration, the overload of screen time and the depression that distance learning has caused our children. We have also experienced the hardships and emotional toll distance learning has put on us as parents, as employees and as business owners, who now assume the role of teacher as well. I say this knowing my family is strong, tight knit and supportive of one another, yet it is taxing on everyone. My stomach turns for the parents that are struggling to pay rent, to feed their children, to keep their jobs, and maintain their mental health, all while trying to provide a level of normalcy and education for their children. My heart breaks for the children that are neglected, that have lost themselves, that have no parental support or supervision or that are in homes of physical, mental or sexual abuse because of this situation.

As this global pandemic unfolded, Governor Ige issued an emergency proclamation on March 4th, by March 24th public schools closed in-person learning and transitioned to a distance learning platform for the 4th quarter of the 2019-2020 school year. It was a time of anxiety, fear and instability for everyone. As summer dragged along with no end in sight for COVID, it became clear to parents that the 2020-2021 school year would not be what we had imagined prior to COVID. However, what we as parents didn't expect, is the roller coaster ride that has ensued; the mixed messages, the moving targets, the amount of learning on our shoulders, the convoluted apps with digital learning and the decision to continue distance learning with no end in sight. What has transpired is contrary to the BOE's June 18th Resolution that "student need predictability to feel safe, secure, and hopeful." Families are losing hope in the government, in the BOE and in the teachers' union.

The BOE and the Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) had five months to discuss, develop and negotiate a back-to-school health and safety plan for the 2020-2021 school year to include protocols to keep teachers and students' safe, to determine when different learning models will take place and to determine what will happen if there is a positive COVID case. Yet, with Hawaii's COVID cases on the downward trend, and Governor Ige opening up Hawaii to mainland travelers, and with parents forced to work, our children *still* cannot attend schools. It makes me believe the HSTA has overstepped its role as a union and has created a glorified reality of how unsafe schools really are. They have broadcast a mantra to public school teachers that "it's not safe to return to classrooms". However, nurses and doctors are not afforded that option – they are deemed essential. Preschool teachers are not afforded that option – they are deemed essential. Private school teachers are not, grocery store workers are not, postal service workers are not, restaurants are not, and small businesses are not. So how did we get here that public school teachers are afforded an undue protection because of their union's power, when they are arguably *the* most essential workers of them all.

I truly wish I had the opportunity to be a fly on the wall for the HSTA meetings to grasp how the few people in charge think it is fair and logical to not allow face-to-face learning for our children, especially knowing the community funds public education with our tax dollars; it should be a decision made by parents, not by the union. As someone who worked for the State of Hawaii for 8 years and belonged to the HGEA union, I have seen first-hand the negative repercussions of unions. Union's promote entitlement and laziness of government employees. The protection and power provided by unions is precisely the reason schools are not back in session even though teachers are clearly essential.

Out of frustration and desperation, I made the decision to enroll my first grade son into a private school. It was a heavy decision with financial and emotional consequences, yet in his short time there it has rejuvenated him, and me. The school requires temperature checks before entering the building, face masks are worn all day, desks are spaced 6' apart, every kid has hand sanitizer on their desks, AC filters are cleaned regularly and kids are thriving. Bringing kids back face-to-face is doable and should be the teaching model after fall break. I hope the BOE will work with the HSTA to get students back in classrooms while also making teachers feel safe and accommodating those that are high risk. I hope the BOE has the funds and resources to ensure a safe environment, and if they do not, then this needs to be a community effort that includes families' support to get children back in face-to-face learning. As parents, we are willing to do what it takes to ensure a safe environment for teachers and students. If that means we need to volunteer to conduct temperature checks each morning, or to disinfect the classrooms over the weekends, or pitch in on PEE for teachers, where do we sign up?

Thank you for your time and consideration on this impactful decision.

Aloha,

Kristine Barker



Virus-free. www.avast.com

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Parent Testimony-Agenda C- In Support Return to In Person Learning

1 message

Mei Lyn Brown <motherlaughter@yahoo.com>
To: Testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 9:43 AM

Dear Board of Education,

Here is my Testimony of My Support for Returning Students to In Person Learning & My Opposition to Operation CV 19 in General.

I AM:

In Support of Return to Full In Person Learning.

In Support of Freedom of Choice for Teachers and Parents Being Given the Option to Return to School.

In Support of Masks being Optional & NOT Mandatory

In Support of Protecting our Privacy, Constitutional and Civil Rights. Contact Tracing Should Remain VOLUNTARY & NOT A REQUIREMENT.

Question: Who gave the Board the direction to make the DOH the Decision Maker on DOE Policies and Procedures based on false & inconsistent data models and modes of Information?

I think it's very important to move away from false Fear Mongering Programming and to cease the Programming that we need to be safe, safe to return to school, safe to walk around in our neighborhoods, safe to live, safe for kids to learn and play with one another. Stop telling people especially our children to live afraid. Especially from a virus with a 99.9% Survival Rate. People are not dropping dead all around us, like all of these mainstream media news outlets, sources, mandates and restructuring of school models and societal systems try to make it seem like. Yes, People get sick, People do pass away. People do spread bacteria and viruses all around just as they have in the past.

I AM an educated parent of four. Two who are currently school age and enrolled in the Public Education System. I come from a family of chronic illness and life threatening diseases. I, myself was born with Pneumonia and had severe and chronic respiratory illnesses and conditions throughout my childhood and young adult life. Each of my children have been vaccine injured and have had childhood cancer twice, learning disabilities, and other chronic conditions because of this. I had to care and nurse one of my children from two traumatic brain injuries that nearly took her life. And I do not fear COVID. I do not fear chronic illness or disease or everyday human beings who may have or do have them. Nor do I want my children programmed and conditioned in this false paradigm of a virus threatening to kill everyone especially our elders, our kupuna. My family and I do not fear a virus. I know about the body, about health, about the respiratory system, immune system and all body systems because of my family and I's history of severe illness and disease, and because of this, I know that what has been broadcasted on repeat through all major main stream news media's is completely false and inaccurate. My family and I's health were at high risk most of our lives and not once did I expect for the world to shut down or other people to stop living, or have their families and livelihoods destroyed or the human rights of people to be stripped because of this. Neither did the 10's of thousands if not millions of others who had the same chronic illnesses or diseases that we see and experience daily throughout this state, nation and world.

We all have bore witness and have heard information, and data being chronically changed, manipulated and completely falsified from these very same "Trusted Sources" that so many people have been relying on moment to moment literally. These same "Trusted Sources" that have caused the world to completely shut down, severely damaging our economy, completely tearing apart our education systems, familial systems, and all systems more than the damage of COVID could ever do or will do.

People will constantly speak about how they've been affected or have family members who have been affected or have lost ones, I feel deeply for you, yet people have these same losses in much more massive numbers for just as or even more serious things than this. Yet, no one wants to remember this, nor hear or honor their stories, or feel their pain from their losses that everyone has now turned a blind eye and a deaf ear to because of this virus. The numbers are much greater than this. Cancer of all kinds was much greater than this. Vaccine injuries, illnesses, deaths are much greater than this. Addictions, opiates, heroin, much greater than this. Violent, Life Threatening School Bullying much greater than this. Suicides much greater than this. The world continued to remain open, continued to keep turning and going.

Change is a good thing yes. It is the only constant yes. New systems need to be co created and rebuilt yes. Yet, not like this. Not in this way, based on lies, fear, manipulation, control. Based on inaccurate data and false tools. Not in this way, where constitutional and human rights are being stripped away under the guise of a pandemic. Not for draconian mandates, for political agendas, hidden and in plain sight. Yet for the highest good of our keiki, all Ohana, all Humanity.

To begin, These complicated, unrealistic measures, mandates, matrixes and models, that major life changing decisions are being made from. They are all based on Results of a Test. A test that was never created to diagnose any virus or disease to begin with. A Test that has been proven to be inaccurate, tampered with and that provides false positives. Tests where constant errors have continued to take place on large scales.

The CDC whose guidelines have created draconian non sensical mandates (which may I remind you that mandates are not laws). The very same CDC who continuously is changing their website to correct falsified numbers, data, science and information. Many which they have admitted and many of which they have secretly omitted. The CDC who truly is a private organization that works for and with the Big Pharmaceuticals who profit from the illnesses and prescription and vaccine damaged people that take their products that claim to make people well again, protect them and give them a better quality of life.

In regards to Masks: This should never be mandatory, always optional. Personally based on the education below, no one should be wearing them for the purpose that has been sensationalized.

It has always been known and scientifically proven that they do not prevent or lessen the spread of viruses. Especially cloth coverings. Many Scientists and Dr's all over the world have stood up to speak up against mask wearing and educate the people on the health risks involved in wearing them. The risks are much greater than the benefits. Such as:

Hypoxia: Reduction in blood oxygenation

Hypercapnia: Elevation in blood CO₂-Rebreathing of the carbon dioxide that the lungs are needing to expel. Creating lung infections and disease.

Cytokines, Stress & Immunity. Anxiety and loss of consciousness.

It is also stated that Face masks should also be worn by healthcare workers or by individuals who are taking care of or are in close contact with people who have respiratory infections, or otherwise as directed by a doctor. Face masks should not be worn by healthy individuals to protect themselves from acquiring respiratory infection because there is no evidence to suggest that face masks worn by healthy individuals are effective in preventing people from becoming ill.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2762694>

Constant touching of masks increases viral transmissions of any kind. Especially with kids and teens who have challenges and habits of touching their nose, mouth and face in general.

Aerosol Droplets still shoot out from the sides and tops of masks.

Face masks restrict the elimination of virus, recirculating the virus into the nasal/sinus and upper respiratory passages-

<https://www.technocracy.news/blaylock-face-masks-pose-serious-risks-to-the-healthy/>

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32167747/>

<https://childrenshealthdefense.org/news/the-risks-vs-benefits-of-face-masks-is-there-an-agenda/>

Contact Tracing: In other words, Disease Surveillance, should not only remain private, yet remain voluntarily. Viruses have always been invisible, silent and fast. It is impossible to control or stop a virus and to track and trace every person's move, things they have touched and people they have been in contact with. Most importantly it violates our privacy and civil rights, especially in the way that it's being implemented and used now outside of the Public Health Realm where they are asking schools, restaurants, places of businesses etc to become contact tracers or collectors of the information in which Contact Tracers will be using. We the people must continue to protect and uphold our rights to what we do and do not consent to and our rights to choose.

Social Distancing/6ft Apart: Aerosol droplets can hang in the air for hours. Aerosol droplets can spread all the way from 10ft to 30ft in many cases. Once again it's insanity to think that you can control or limit the spread of these natural causes. People have experienced the spread of aerosol particles every day, everywhere around them. We can not stop people from talking, breathing, speaking, singing, playing, interacting, laughing or crying because of any of this. We are human beings. Who live who die, who get sick, who get well, or may never get well again. This is and has always been a part of our human life experience. The other word out there is that the Real 6ft/Social Distancing agenda is for Facial Recognition, and the new track and trace World Surveillance System that has been planned a long time ago.

One of the most important reminders and probably the only real thing I've read on the CDC website is this below:

"Schools should also consider other aspects of students' risk and wellbeing that arise when schools do not reopen for in-person classes. This includes the potential adverse impacts on students' social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health, as well as the critical services provided to students to help mitigate health disparities and serve children in need, such as school lunch programs, special education services, after-school programs and mental health services. The unique and critical role that schools play makes them a priority for reopening and remaining open, enabling students to receive both academic instruction and enable the provision of other critical services and supports. "

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/schools.html>

In regards to Teachers and any Educational Administration who are in High Risk Categories or are experiencing high levels of fear regarding this virus. I'd highly suggest and recommend that they work from home, and isolate if truly necessary away from the general population, just as it's always been done in the past with other serious infections, chronic illnesses and disease. It is not a highly educated decision as well as a counterintuitive and counterproductive decision to keep healthy people segregated, isolated or locked in their homes, just for the reason that they may be possibly carrying a virus that they don't know about and may infect other people. This truly is insanity.

I also highly recommend that the DOE make it a requirement for all Teachers and Educational Administration to be given access to attend and have Mental Health Services & Therapy Sessions. Especially for those that are still undergoing Fear, Anxiety, Trauma, PTSD and any distress over this Pandemic and the experiences caused or magnified by this Pandemic, To ensure that they are of sound and right mind to be teaching our children, and our healthy enough to be returning to work to begin with.

Last and most importantly to register within the mind to further research:

I read another testimony stating that "their kids" are not guinea pigs. I have to be the one to break it to anyone dwelling in this mentality right now. We are all being used as guinea pigs for a New World Order Agenda and an Operation Simulation during this time we are in. Look into Event 201. Agenda 2030. Agenda 2050. The real information and not the polished programming of the UN World Health Organization that is using Eugenics, Global Population Control, Transhumanism, under the Guise of Sustainability, Unity, & Fighting Climate Change. That's their hook to get the masses to play along while they continue on with their underlying agendas that are not for the highest good of all humanity.

There are many resources, sites, references, Doctors, Scientists, Virologist, Immunologist etc. that I can site here, yet I know that this testimony I've written is long enough at this point. So I end with this:

It's extremely important to research deeply not on the surface about all of these things I have mentioned above. So that you truly can see and understand what's happening and why, all around our Globe, on this World Stage right now.

With my Deepest Aloha,

Mrs. Brown

Human Being
Mother, Wife, Hawaii State Resident & Earth Citizen

Sent from my iPad

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Oct. 1 Meeting - Blended/Modified Learning Format

1 message

David Kawada <dekawada@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 10:45 AM

Hello,

My apologies as I did not know about this meeting until today.

I have advocated for, at minimum, a blended learning module for students to be implemented as soon as possible.

Education should be considered an essential need and therefore teachers and staff at the public school should be required to work and perform their duties under a blended or modified format.

Distance learning has gone on for too long and does not address the social development needed for all students at all. Considering the various demographics throughout our state, and technology challenges, learning in this format is significantly inadequate.

The HSTA keeps bringing up the safety of the students and the teachers. But as an essential employee, like those in other industries, our teachers must work with the understanding that A) the state will do the best they can to provide the safest environment, B) schools must operate as close to normal as possible to offer social development, and C) each staff must also have their own personal responsibility to protect themselves.

Positive cases WILL HAPPEN. That is just the nature of how this pandemic is. But we cannot continue this distance learning format. Otherwise there should be furloughs in the payroll budget for schools as they are not working at normal capacity and, like in the private sector, the state should save money on staff if this status continues.

Thank you,

David Kawada





Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Keep distance ed until end of this year

1 message

Shiyana Thenabadu <shiyanat@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 10:55 AM

Dear BOE members,

I would like to thank the Kailua-Kalaheo complex for making the decision to stick with distance education until Christmas break. As much as I want our students to go back into the classrooms to be physically present with their teachers and classmates, I'm afraid that once tourism reopens in two weeks, our infection rates might go up and we might be put back in lockdown. This type of "pivoting" is ineffective and very frustrating for all concerned since our kids and teachers have just started to get into the rhythm of distance education. Most of us have worked out the kinks and are doing our best to make it work. I understand that some private schools have gone back to face-to-face lessons and time will tell if they made the right call. I think it's prudent for the DOE leaders to watch these schools closely to see what works and what doesn't. Many of these schools have much more space to social distance the students and resources to make additional space etc. if needed. Our public schools are jam packed with some classes having over 30 students with inadequate desks etc. We cannot compare ourselves to Punahou (who has not yet gone back to face-to-face) or Iolani. So, mahalo for making the call to stick with distance education for the next couple of months so we can all be safe, get our infection rates down (hopefully) and move to the next Tier so more places can open. I'm hoping with all my heart that by Spring 2021, our kids can at least go back into the classrooms 2 days a week. There will be a lot of testimony to open our public schools right away as COVID-19 has become a political issue but teachers and the community need to be safe even if the virus doesn't affect the young.

Sincerely,
Shiyana Thenabadu
Parent of a public school student
Kailua, HI 96734
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY

1 message

Anjelica Ayers <aiayers@yahoo.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 11:16 AM

Testimony for agenda item: Board action on directives regarding department of education's use department of health's guidance for schools COVID-19 reopening.

Meeting October 1, 2020

A. I support authorizing a board member to represent the board in mid term bargaining with the HGEA.

B. I support a telework option for teachers who are able to complete their full duties at home.

C. I support suspending changes to instructional delivery mode. Additionally, I do not believe the DOE has proper plans to handle covid numbers. I do not believe there is transparency within the department. Schools are not equipped for safe opening in a hybrid model. There are too many students in the class to socially distance. Teachers are not experts in delivering two modes of instruction simultaneously, an almost impossible task. I believe that the DOH metrics for reopening are skewed to forces teachers, staff, and students back into the classroom.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

TESTIMONY

1 message

Rachel Cote <rachelevancote@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 12:06 PM

Hi I am Rachel Spear for the special meeting agenda item C

LET CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL UNRESTRICTED IMMEDIATELY

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony

1 message

Lehua Porter <kellyporter143@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 12:21 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

To whom it may concern,

Our children NEED to back in classrooms face-to-face learning. They are all falling behind academically. Distance learning is creating emotionally unstable children and frustrated parents. They need to be with people and there are safe ways to do it. Look at all the schools that ARE open! They are just fine. Why is it that some schools can be open and others can't. It doesn't make sense. Please change this. OPEN ALL SCHOOLS!

Mahalo for your time.

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony BOE : Section C

1 message

Stulen, Mikiala <mstulen@queens.org>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 1:47 PM

To: "testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov" <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Dear Board of Education,

My name is Miki'ala Stulen, mother of Oliver Stulen who attends the 1st Grade at Kainalu Elementary School. I am writing to express my deep concern with your recent announcement to continue remote learning through Quarter 2.

Without formal instruction since the spring of 2020, my child, and I suspect thousands of others in our community are suffering. As a mother, I have an obligation to message to you that remote learning is simply NOT effective for our youngest keiki.

We started this academic year 3 weeks late; an unfortunate loss of valuable education after months of nothing. Now that school is in session, their days are cut short 2-3 hours. Insult to injury comes with the announcement that Fall Break will proceed as planned. I cannot understand why the Department of Education prioritizes Fall Break over recapturing a week of lost education.

The decision to continue remote learning through Quarter 2 is devastating. Why can't our youngest attend face to face, even partially? Have you considered a phased or hybrid approach? After all, we know scientifically that our youngest children cannot be instructed effectively through an 11-inch screen, that teachers are not able to provide critical in-person assessments of the child's progress, and that social interaction is imperative for development. I lay awake at night, troubled with the repercussions they face without face to face education: educational disparities, social shortcomings, mental health problems to name a few.

I am a healthcare worker. A cardiac nurse, working alongside a team of frontline physicians, nurses and staff to care for our community. I am labelled "essential" and while having my own concerns with work exposure leading to family exposure, I am proud to continue to support the well-being of our people. I have taken all precautions to protect myself and others, and so far have not fallen victim to COVID-19.

Teachers are ESSENTIAL. This virus is here to stay. I beg you, please consider allowing Kinder through 2nd grade return face-to-face now. These kids need their teachers. They need their classmates. They need normalcy. We can do this safely with all the right precautions in place.

Mahalo for your time,

Miki'ala Stulen, MSN

Queens Medical Center

████████████████████



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Back to school

1 message

Anne Dericks <annedericks@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 2:41 PM

Hello,

I am writing to stress that our keiki should be back in school. I am a parent of two children who were in the public school system before this pandemic began. I hear people say they would rather have a depressed child than a sick child. But they fail to recognize that a depressed child is a sick child. We need community more than ever and so do our children. It is well researched that our immune systems work better when we are in community. Our immune systems are depressed when we are depressed.

I understand that many teachers are concerned for their health. If teachers feel this is too dangerous and they are afraid for their health, lets find teacher who will teach and do their job, before they no longer have jobs.

Let's get back to school, just like all the private institutions are doing. Why should only those who pay for private education have the ability to access face to face education? This is terrible that Hawaii's most vulnerable keiki, those who attend public school, are getting the negative outcomes. Lets face it, virtual learning is not enough. Kids aren't retaining and kids are not having their community, perhaps the most important part of school. Please open back up our schools now, just like all the other private schools.

Sincerely,
Anne Dye

LATE



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

Testimony - BOE Oct 1 Meeting Agenda Item III.C - Comment

1 message

Steve O'Neal <stephenoneal@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 1, 2020 at 2:53 PM

Reply-To: stephenoneal@gmail.com

To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

BOE Testimony - October 1, 2020

My name is Steve O'Neal and I'm a parent with three children in the public schools. I also have experience as a disaster response lead for the UN. I am testifying on item III. C. and fully support your commitment to ensure that science backed health and safety requirements, and clear metrics, are met before schools open to in person learning.

Like you, I want the schools to open, and where reasonable metrics are met, and the principals and their teaching teams agree, they should do so. At the same time, we are concerned that the metrics are being manipulated, to make high risk districts seem less risky, and to support the state's efforts to simultaneously open to tourism.

Two weeks ago, we noticed that the Department of Education metrics were announced within hours of the announcement that the state would also open to tourism. We all live in one community, and obviously they are interlinked.

We noticed two alarming things.

One was that while the DOE seemed to use the CDC school opening framework, but then based Hawaii's metrics on active cases per 10,000, instead of the CDC suggested metrics of active cases per 100,000. Clearly, the Hawaii based teachers and students should not accept 10 times the risk of students in CA and elsewhere.

The second was that the state was opening to tourism with no shortened quarantine and no second test to exit quarantine on day 6 or 7 which is the only scientifically proven way to catch travelers infected on their trip to Hawaii. No science supports a single preflight test and then fully dropping quarantine. Tahiti, Alaska, the Bahamas and others have all shown this will fail.

Please follow the science when opening your schools, and insist that the state does the same as they open to tourism - they are interdependent. We must all commit to science based decision making, and accept nothing less.

Mahalo

Steve O'Neal

stephenoneal@gmail.com

Supporting Articles:

Oct 1:

<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2020/10/01/editorial/island-voices/column-hawaii-needs-to-reopen-but-safely-and-were-not-ready/>

Sept 29: Garden Island article.

<https://www.thegardenisland.com/2020/09/29/opinion/oahu-has-thousands-of-cases-kauais-reopening-plan-the-same/>

Days When Infectious Chart: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bHp0bUOPvoQZpXja4yyFXMVwiBrN_kh9/view?usp=sharing

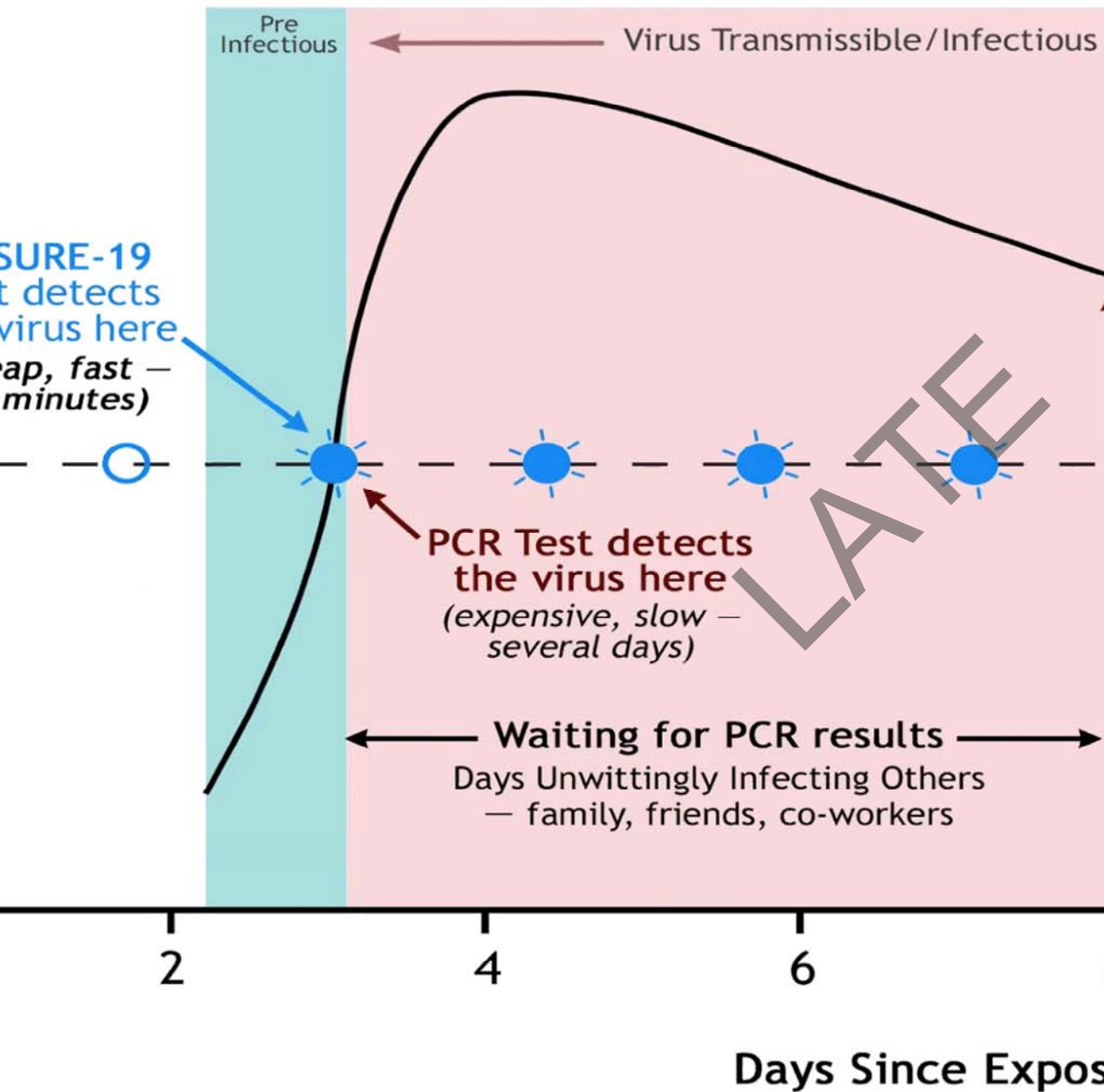
Supporting Slideshows:

Sept 24: <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1K1nBTYckohUJgyuuNagJtpnhNxrIWWIx2-q3t16FjXo/edit?usp=sharing>

Aug 22: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zrbRbOmaSNi--ew-H5hMxs4_JLukbVKWXOdzB83suP0/edit?usp=sharing

LATE

ASSURE-19 vs ASSURE-19 Test Reduces Cor



Our Neighbor Islands are almost certainly at a
Community Spread Tipping Point.

Hawaii and Maui have likely just passed it.

Hawaii data is limited, but patterns are alarming.

*Everytime we take a week to implement what
can be done in a day, we may make containment
an order of magnitude more difficult.*

Best Practice - Comparing 2 Outbreaks - Aug 10 to 20	Hawaii Outbreak	Auckland Outbreak
Known Active Cases on 8/9/20	1919 known	0 known
Tests on 8/10	1884 - 140 new	1874 - 4 New
Avg Tests per day for the following 10 days	2300 daily	17,700 daily
Tests done per known active case	1	1,682
Percent of tests returned positive	8.5% -	0.04% - 105 New
Tests per likely case	~ 0.1 - 0.2	~ 1,500
Metric 1 - Tested 1st day of symptoms	~ 10%? +/- \$200	90% - Free
Metric 2 - Tests results in 24 hrs	~ 10%?	90%
Metric 3 - Close contacts identified in 24 hrs	~ 10%?	86%
Metric 4 - Avg # of close contacts per new case	~ 10?	19

Achievable Goals

Best practices show 4 cases can indicate 105 (5-10x more).

Others have ramped from 2,000 to 24,000 daily tests in 4 days.

It is possible to measure the 4 critical metrics daily.

Metric 1 - % Tested 1st day of symptoms (target 90%)

Metric 2 - % Tests results returned in 24 hrs (target 90%)

Metric 3 - % Close contacts quarantined in 24 hrs (target 90%)

Metric 4 - Avg # of close contacts per new case (target 19)

This Week - Big Island and Maui have started community spread.

- 1) Maui and Big Island have **doubled and quadrupled their percent positive tests in the last 7 days with 4-6% positive reports.**
- 2) Oahu showed us it is just a matter of time before a even one superspreader event creates a tragic new case uptick.
- 3) Kauai numbers are far too low to know anything for sure, but we should assume will follow the same patterns.
- 4) System failures (and human performance) increase with stress, until they break. This has proven to be especially the case with contact tracing.

All Hawaii Data

- High % positive means many, many undetected cases.
- We're doing less tests over time. No surveillance testing.
- Hawaii's response is not within range of worldwide best practices.

Best Practice Outbreak				All Hawaii Counties				
Date	Daily Tests	New Cases	% Pos	Date	Daily Tests	New Cases	% Pos	Active
8/10	1,874	4	0.20%	8/10	1,884	140	7.4%	2,059
8/11	4,225	14	0.30%	8/11	1,674	118	7.0%	2,095
8/12	6,006	12	0.20%	8/12	2,726	202	7.4%	2,256
8/13	15,703	5	0.03%	8/13	3,384	355	10.5%	2,558
8/14	23,846	14	0.05%	8/14	2,649	223	8.4%	2,747
8/15	23,682	10	0.04%	8/15	3,033	284	9.4%	2,997
8/16	26,014	9	0.03%	8/16	2,649	220	8.3%	3,161
8/17	18,421	9	0.05%	8/17	2,251	174	7.7%	3,307
8/18	23,038	12	0.05%	8/18	1914	134	7.0%	3387
8/19	18,091	5	0.02%	8/19	2559	261	10.2%	3590
8/20	15,714	5	0.07%	8/20	2512	236	9.4%	3770
8/21	12,256	11	0.09%	8/21	2366	230	9.7%	3984
8/22	7,005	6	0.09%	8/22	2634	284	10.8%	4202
8/23	4,589	3	0.07%	8/23	2640	248	9.4%	4410
8/24	4,434	9	0.20%	8/24	2026	169	8.3%	4548

Big Island Data

- This is serious - Big Island is tipping right now to community spread.
- Best practice is to ramp up tests and do surveillance testing.
- All cases need to be immediately traced to contain emerging clusters.

Best Practice Outbreak				Hawaii County (Big Island)			
Date	Daily Tests	New Cases	% Pos	Date	Daily Tests	New Cases	% Pos
8/10	1,874	4	0.20%	8/10	278	0	0.0%
8/11	4,225	14	0.30%	8/11	271	2	0.7%
8/12	6,006	12	0.20%	8/12	396	2	0.5%
8/13	15,703	5	0.03%	8/13	401	4	1.0%
8/14	23,846	14	0.05%	8/14	435	5	1.1%
8/15	23,682	10	0.04%	8/15	310	3	1.0%
8/16	26,014	9	0.03%	8/16	195	4	2.1%
8/17	18,421	9	0.05%	8/17	236	2	0.8%
8/18	23,038	12	0.05%	8/18	267	3	1.1%
8/19	18,091	5	0.02%	8/19	373	7	1.9%
8/20	15,714	5	0.07%	8/20	341	5	1.5%
8/21	12,256	11	0.09%	8/21	428	13	3.0%
8/22	7,005	6	0.09%	8/22	322	15	4.7%

Maui Data

- This is serious - it looks like Maui just tipped to community spread.
- Best practice is to ramp up tests and do surveillance testing.
- All cases need to be immediately traced to contain emerging clusters.

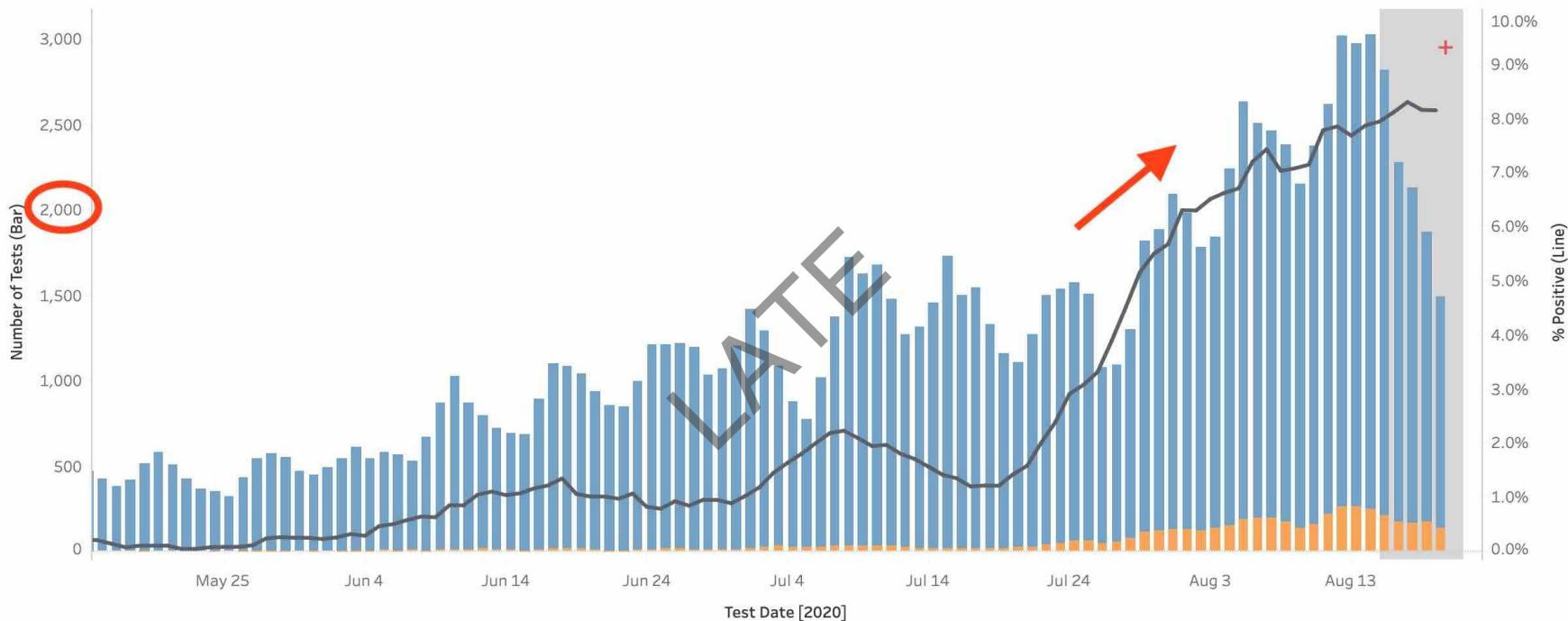
Best Practice Outbreak				Maui County			
Date	Daily Tests	New Cases	% Pos	Date	Daily Tests	New Cases	% Pos
8/10	1,874	4	0.20%	8/10	204	1	0.5%
8/11	4,225	14	0.30%	8/11	245	4	1.6%
8/12	6,006	12	0.20%	8/12	276	2	0.7%
8/13	15,703	5	0.03%	8/13	185	7	3.8%
8/14	23,846	14	0.05%	8/14	368	9	2.4%
8/15	23,682	10	0.04%	8/15	314	7	2.2%
8/16	26,014	9	0.03%	8/16	342	14	4.1%
8/17	18,421	9	0.05%	8/17	335	9	2.7%
8/18	23,038	12	0.05%	8/18	419	7	1.7%
8/19	18,091	6	0.02%	8/19	520	20	3.8%
8/20	15,714	5	0.07%	8/20	452	1	0.2%
8/21	12,256	11	0.09%	8/21	459	6	1.3%
8/22	7,005	6	0.09%	8/22	358	10	2.8%

Kauai Data

- Data too little to intuit anything.
- Low number of tests concerning.
- Best practice is to do surveillance testing of asymptomatic population.

Best Practices					Kauai County			
Date	Daily Tests	New Cases	% Pos		Date	Daily Tests	New Cases	% Pos
8/10	1,874	4	0.20%		8/10	68	1	1.5%
8/11	4,225	14	0.30%		8/11	79	0	0.0%
8/12	6,006	12	0.20%		8/12	86	1	1.2%
8/13	15,703	5	0.03%		8/13	71	1	1.4%
8/14	23,846	14	0.05%		8/14	68	1	1.5%
8/15	23,682	10	0.04%		8/15	58	1	1.7%
8/16	26,014	9	0.03%		8/16	51	0	0.0%
8/17	18,421	9	0.05%		8/17	62	0	0.0%
8/18	23,038	12	0.05%		8/18	73	0	0.0%
8/19	18,091	5	0.02%		8/19	72	0	0.0%
8/20	15,714	5	0.07%		8/20	55	0	0.0%
8/21	12,256	11	0.09%		8/21	61	2	3.1%
8/22	7,005	6	0.09%		8/22			
8/23	4,589	3	0.07%		8/23			
8/24	4,434	9	0.20%		8/24			

Honolulu Data Patterns



Footnotes:

Individuals can contribute multiple negative tests but only one positive test;

* Based on electronic laboratory reporting of PCR tests; uses a 3-day moving average;

+ Tests performed in the previous 3-5 days may not yet have been reported;

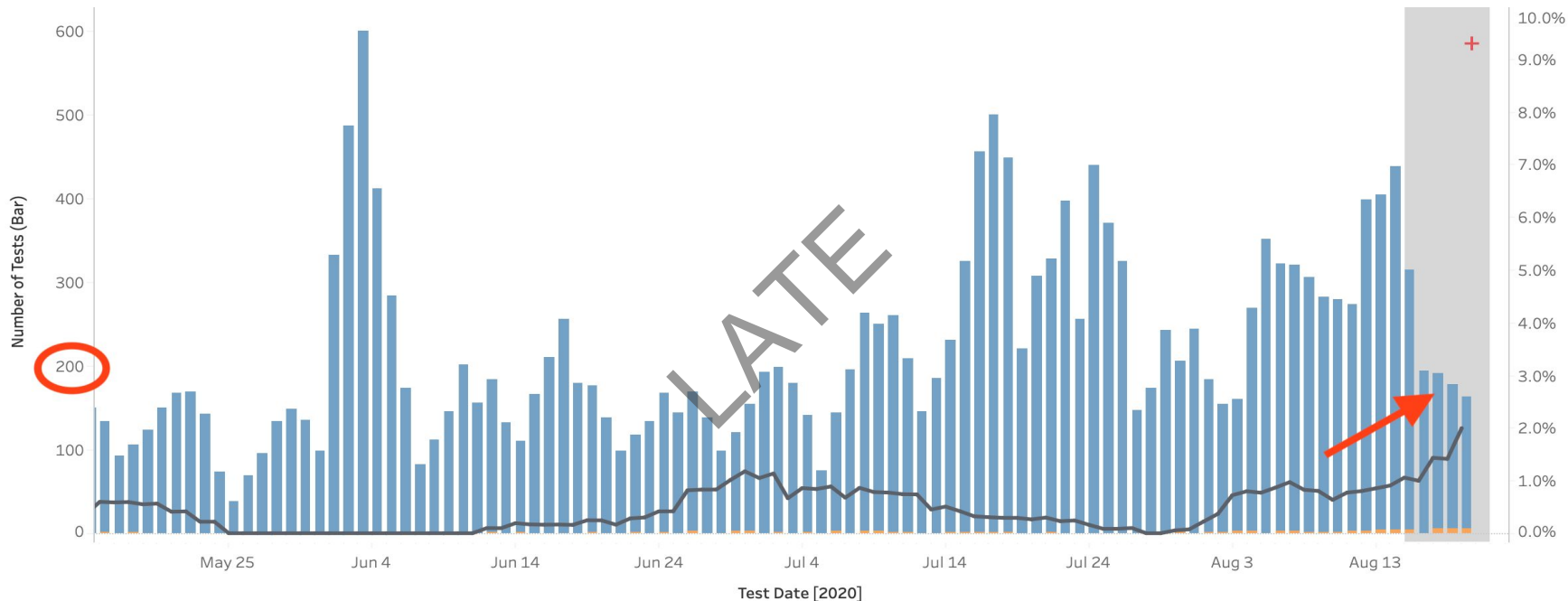
Legend

■ Negative, Count

■ Positive, Count

■ % Positive (7-day avg)

Big Island Data Patterns



Footnotes:

Individuals can contribute multiple negative tests but only one positive test;

* Based on electronic laboratory reporting of PCR tests; uses a 3-day moving average;

+ Tests performed in the previous 3-5 days may not yet have been reported;

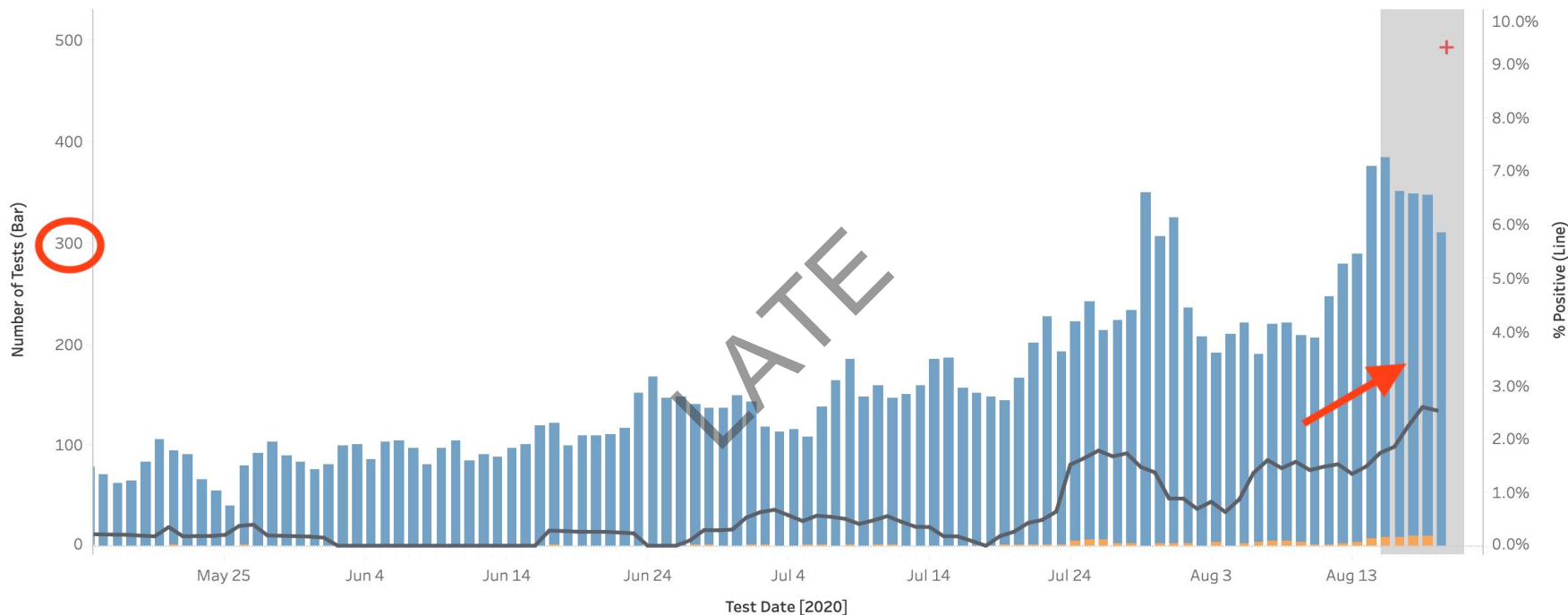
Legend

■ Negative, Count

■ Positive, Count

■ % Positive (7-day avg)

Maui Data Patterns



Footnotes:

Individuals can contribute multiple negative tests but only one positive test;

* Based on electronic laboratory reporting of PCR tests; uses a 3-day moving average;

+ Tests performed in the previous 3-5 days may not yet have been reported;

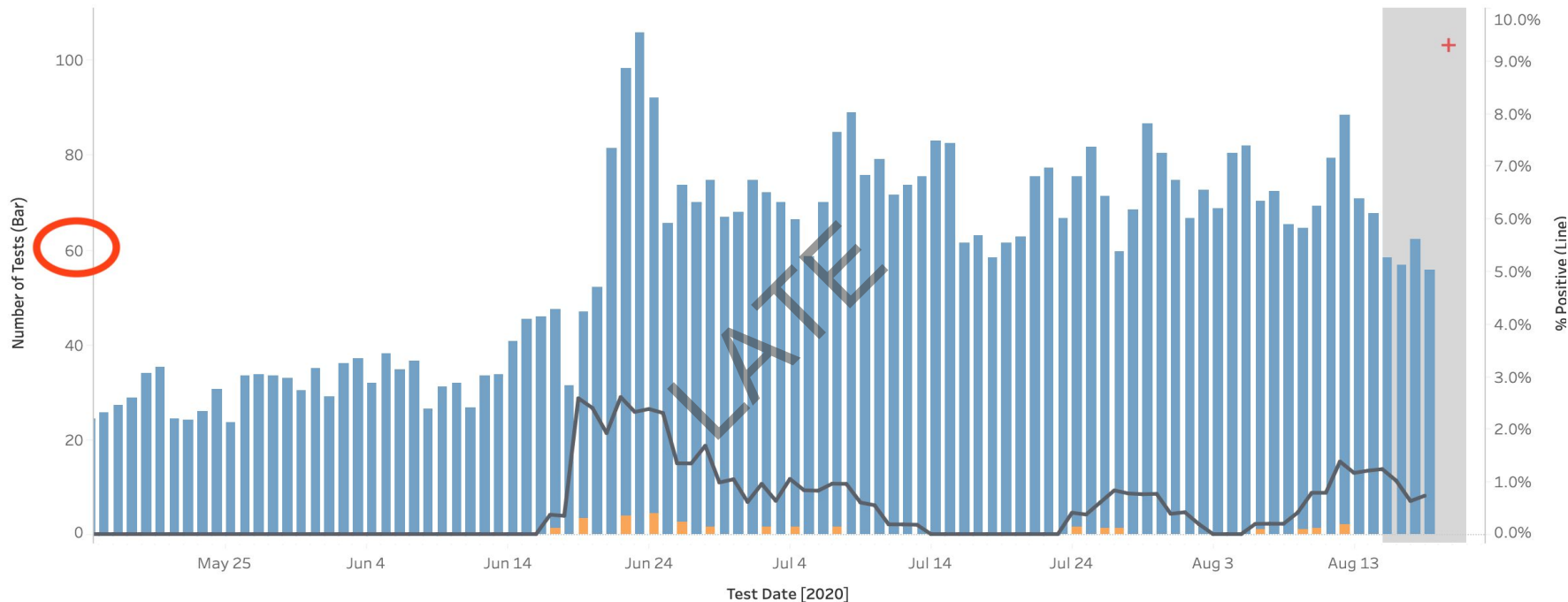
Legend

■ Negative, Count

■ Positive, Count

■ % Positive (7-day avg)

Kauai Data Patterns - too small a sample.



Footnotes:

Individuals can contribute multiple negative tests but only one positive test;

* Based on electronic laboratory reporting of PCR tests; uses a 3-day moving average;

+ Tests performed in the previous 3-5 days may not yet have been reported;

Legend

■ Negative, Count

■ Positive, Count

■ % Positive (7-day avg)

Why Low Case Numbers Matter - aside from the obvious

- 1) High numbers break the system.** DOH head, Bruce Anderson observed that their contact tracing is not so useful when the numbers are high. This is an understatement. Contact tracing is of no value if not done early and completely.
- 2) Low numbers keep our kids in school.** If 15% of teachers are scared, no school. A tipping point for many services is reached far before hospitals are filled.
- 3) We can reopen sooner.** The lower the numbers, the quicker the economy can recover. Many businesses can operate with low case counts, but not high ones.

Recent Key Insights - Wise Assumptions

- 1) This virus is incredibly hard to contain.
- 2) Just one case at a superspreader event can be game over.
- 3) Citizens won't comply unless compelled - not in our culture/nature.
- 4) The disadvantaged, living in close quarters, will infect/suffer most.
- 5) The disadvantaged are least likely to test and most likely to spread.

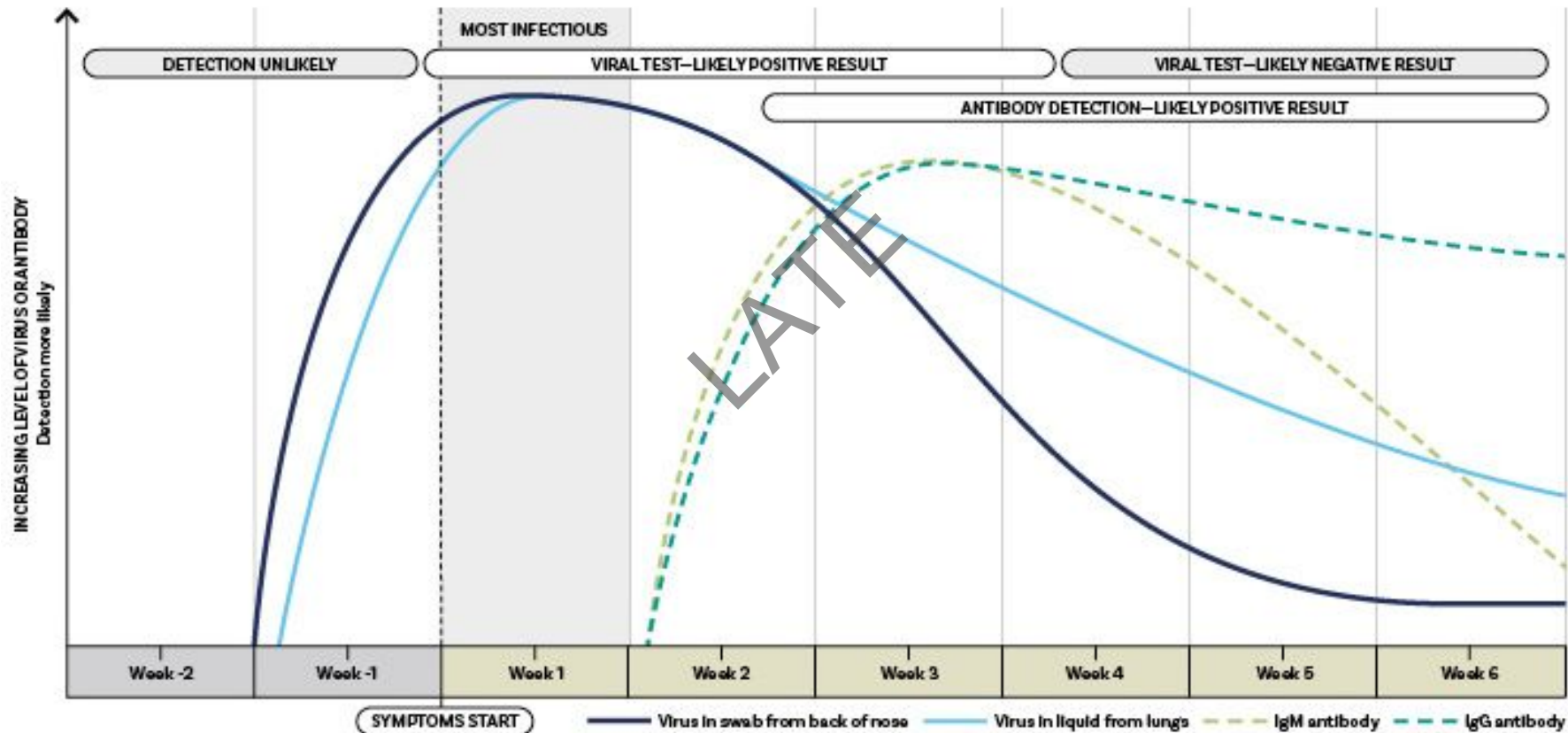
More Key Insights - Wise Assumptions

- 6) Absurd to allow healthy to live with those 14 day quarantining.
- 7) Don't aim to *"Flatten the curve,"* aim to *"Bend it down to zero."*
- 8) Admit failures and invite in criticism/help to stress test.
- 9) Half steps and hesitant approaches fail - Oahu is proof.
- 10) The only economic response is a strong health response.

More Proactive Testing Needed for Asymptomatic Cases

- 1) We're most infectious 2-3 days before symptoms to 3-4 days after.
- 2) Testing/studies show 45-50% are asymptomatic.
- 3) Asymptomatic carry similar viral loads and infectivity.
- 4) Half of asymptomatic show inflammatory lung damage - say they "feel fine" and yet show 85% oxygen saturation.
- 5) If we don't also target asymptomatic cases, we won't win.

Peak Infectivity - Test Efficacy



Some More Canaries in the Coal Mine

- 1) What are our target testing and tracing goals and metrics?**
- 2) Kauai's hotline said \$1,265 for an uninsured family of 5 to test.
- 3) Are we really stress testing our contact tracers and other systems?
- 4) A number of officials have blamed unpredictable citizen compliance
- we know most citizens won't comply unless compelled.
- 5) How many on flights with off-island positives were quarantined?

To Think About

- 1) Let's look deep into our failures and search out our weaknesses.
- 2) This is life and death - no time for the wrong skill sets in key roles.
- 3) This is no time for protecting turf, or protocols that don't serve now.
- 4) Benchmark wisely. US has 5% world's population but 25% cases.
- 5) When skidding, one needs to overcorrect to get back on the road.

CLICK THROUGH FOR SLIDESHOW

A Collective, Citizen Driven Call for a Sensible Reopening

**For Governor Ige, Lt. Governor Josh Green, Senators,
Representatives, County Mayors, and Business Leaders**

Please don't rush the the re-opening with an unsafe single pre-flight test protocol. Open on metrics, not an arbitrary date.

Locking down again will be curtains for our economy!

September 24th, 2020

Please replicate, use and share widely

Feedback and comments welcome

A Disclaimer

The authors of this presentation, and many other experts, consider the state to be playing with fire. We've been surprised by the proposal to open up on October 15 with a single pre-flight test. It seems to continue a pattern of wishful thinking.

Many of us looking at the best practices around the world can't understand why a single preflight test is even being proposed. As far as we know, no country in the world has yet figured out how to open to tourism without a 14 day quarantine (no matter how much testing) and certainly not with a single pre-flight test.

With a stated goal to get to under 150 daily new cases and a positive test rate of under 5%, we think that the recent lessons, on Hawaii, Tahiti, Alaska, and elsewhere, are not being embraced. Science suggests this reopening will backfire.

We Too Want To Reopen,
but a Single Pre-Flight Test is Not Sufficient.

We Know the Pre-Flight Test (even with 2nd tests,
but with no strict quarantines) Failed in Tahiti and Alaska.

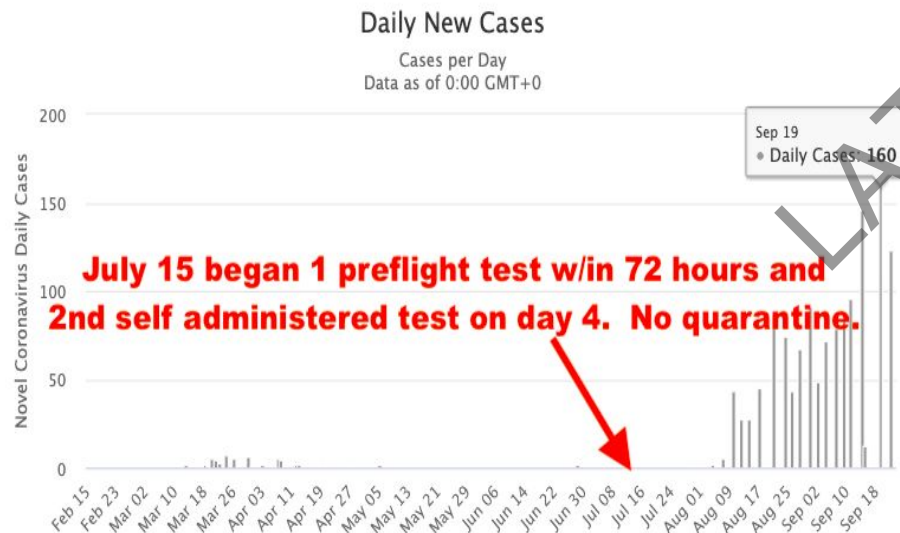
Open unwisely, and we'll soon be closing right back down,
further harming our citizens and our business interests.

Film, Sports, Aviation, etc. use multi-test protocols.

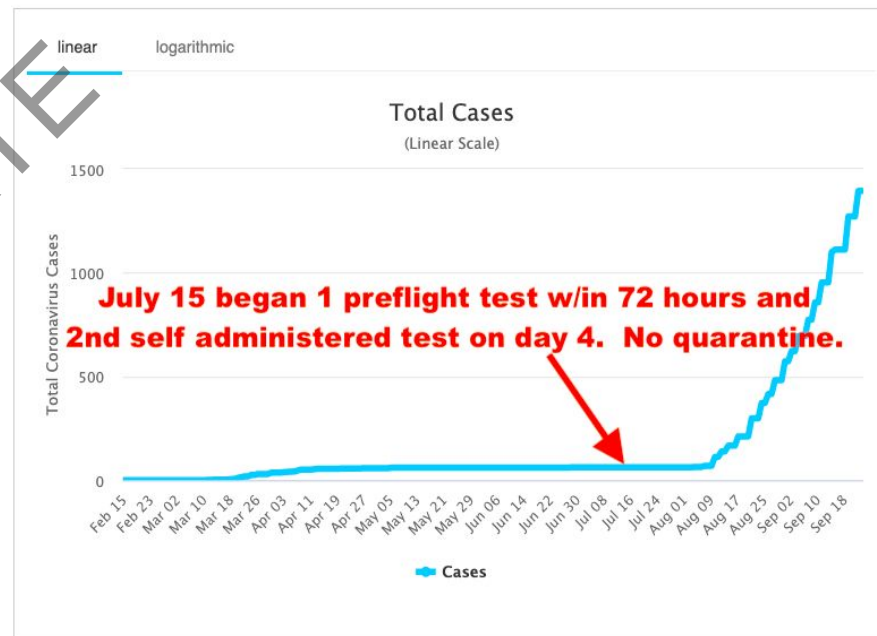
At the least, hold to a 7 Day Quarantine with a 2nd Test on Day 7.

Let's look at what happened when Tahiti reopened with a 72 hour pre-flight test, no quarantine, and a 2nd test on day 4.

Daily New Cases in French Polynesia

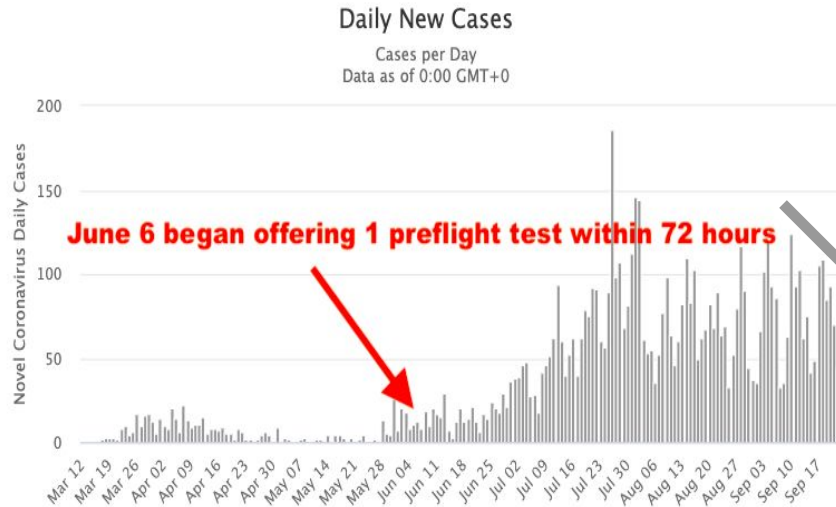


Total Coronavirus Cases in French Polynesia

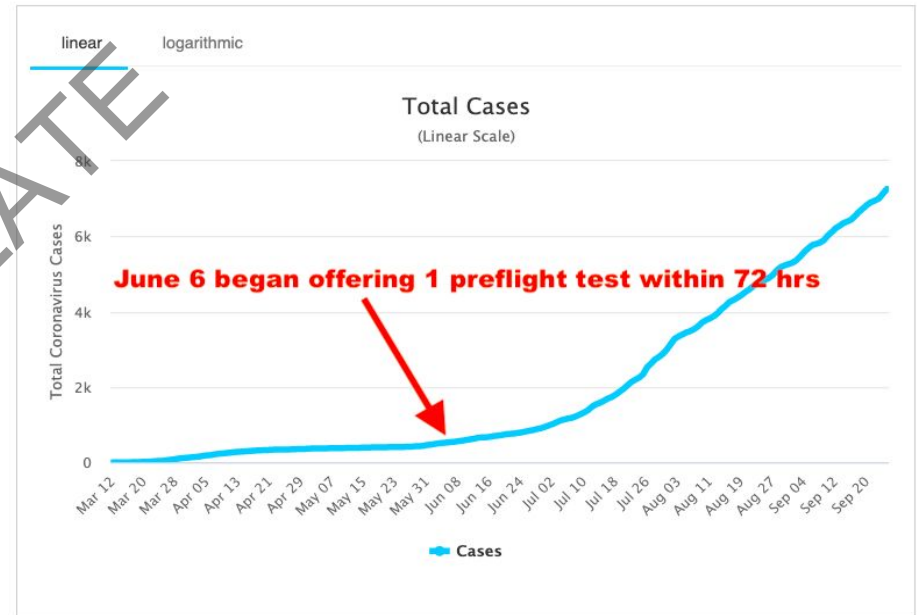


This is what happened when Alaska reopened with either a 72-hour pre-flight test, or a test on arrival with a 2nd test between days 7 and 14, both with no quarantine.

Daily New Cases in Alaska



Total Coronavirus Cases in Alaska



Here's how “under control” they were when they reopened.

Tahiti: 2 active cases on July 15.

Alaska: 146 active cases on June 6.

Here's how “under control” we'll be when we reopen.

Hawaii: Opening October 15 with over ~8,000 active cases.

Today, Hawaii has over 6400 known active cases, with recent surge testing indicating about 6000 more in the community. That's over 12,000 active cases.

Proposal

Cautiously reopen with a 7 day quarantine and at least a 2 test protocol.

- 1) Travellers can get a negative pre-flight test within 72 hours of departure.
- 2) They then are held to a strict quarantine.
- 3) On day 7, and no sooner, they are tested by DOH staff.

If the test is negative, combined with their negative pre-flight test, they can then leave the hotel (under modified conditions for the following week).

Recognize Our Fallibility

We have an admitted, proven record of:

- 1) Underestimating how easy it is to catch the virus.
- 2) Underestimating how easy it is to spread the virus.
- 3) Overestimating our ability to trace and stop spread.

The May 18th, *Making Hawaii Safe For Travel* document, first promoted the single pre-flight test option. Nine steps were to be taken to support this 1 test protocol.

Only ONE of the nine steps were implemented - and it was deemed ineffective.

Our Fallibility - The *Making Hawaii Safe For Travel* Document (May 18, 2020)

This document first proposed the single pre-flight test with 9 supporting conditions.

- 1) No - Hawaii could buy 100 Abbott Rapid Test Machines for 9600 daily tests by July.
- 2) No - Abbott would be producing 2 million ID NOW tests (5-13 min for results) by July.
- 3) No - Airlines would monitor and manage electronically transmitted negative test results.
- 4) No - National Guard would enforce the quarantines of all positive and non-tested arrivals.
- 5) No - Airlines would monitor and verify all travel declaration documents for contact tracing.
- 6) No - All departing from Hawaii passengers would be tested to protect airline employees.
- 7) No - All visitors would be tested once every 7 days.
- 8) No - All visitor industry workers would be tested every 7 days.
- 9) Yes - Temperature sensors to screen for infected passengers. (since proven ineffective)

Eight of the nine conditions still UNMET, with the ninth deemed ineffective.

Obvious Problems with a Single Pre-flight Test

- 1) We'll miss 100% of those infected between their test and the flight.
- 2) We'll miss 100% of those infected on the flight.
- 3) We'll miss 100% of those recently infected, but not yet with a detectable viral load.
- 4) We know false negatives still occur and are missed with just a single test.
- 5) Verifying preflight test validity, from all states and countries, will be impossible.
- 6) We know some infected people will choose not to test, or choose not to reveal a positive result - for any number of reasons.

Probability of a False-Negative Result Among SARS-CoV-2-Positive Patients, by Day Since Exposure

Over the 4 days of infection before the typical time of symptom onset (day 5), the probability of a false-negative result in an infected person decreases from 100% (95% CI, 100% to 100%) on day 1 to 67% (CI, 27% to 94%) on day 4, although there is considerable uncertainty in these numbers. On the day of symptom onset, the median false-negative rate was 38% (CI, 18% to 65%) (Figure 2, top). This decreased to 20% (CI, 12% to 30%) on day 8 (3 days after symptom onset) then began to increase again, from 21% (CI, 13% to 31%) on day 9 to 66% (CI, 54% to 77%) on day 21.

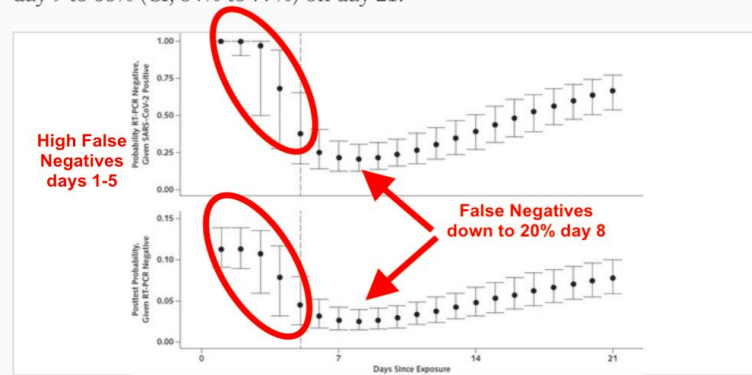


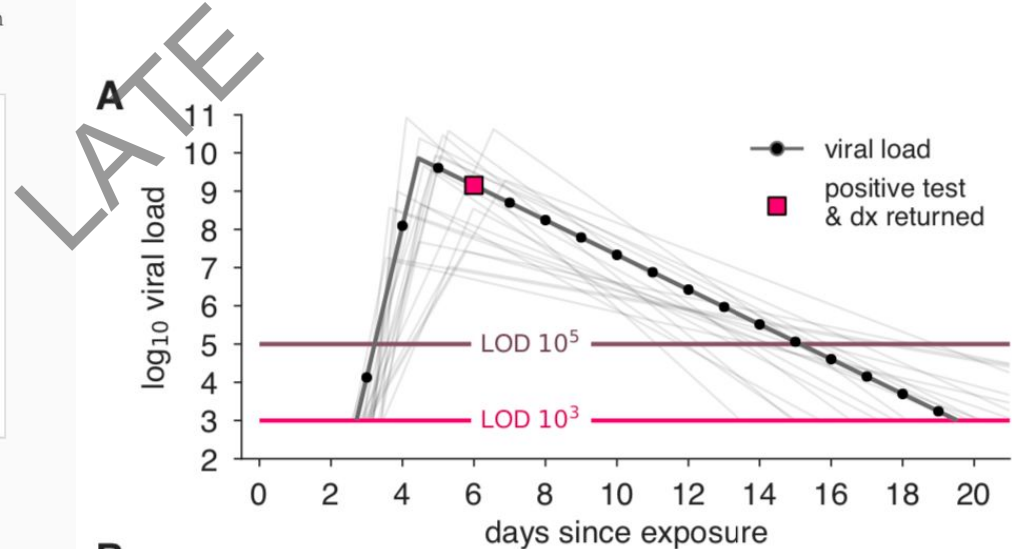
Figure 2. Probability of having a negative RT-PCR test result given SARS-CoV-2 infection (top) and of being infected with SARS-CoV-2 after a negative RT-PCR test result (bottom), by days since exposure.

RT-PCR = reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction; SARS-CoV-2 = severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2.

[Download figure](#) | [Download PowerPoint](#)

NOTE: MORE RESEARCH NEEDED.

These charts are from the 24:10 point in this presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ro89yZ89Q0c>. They are from early in the pandemic and show a wide range of PCR test accuracy. I'm assuming, with no medical training, that the shape of their curves are somewhat accurate, and invite feedback or links to more peer reviewed recent research. <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M20-1495>



Why a shortened 7 Day Quarantine Option is a reasonable compromise.

- It is simple, practical and doable, cutting the current quarantine in half.
- It doesn't depend on the airlines or others to report or monitor.
- It doesn't require testing by multiple entities around the world.
- All travellers are in a safe, easy to monitor environment.
- It allows for all traveler 2nd tests to be done in by our Dept of Health.
- With a pretest, and a test on day 7, we will catch the vast majority of cases.

The day 7 test can be moved in either direction to loosen or tighten controls.

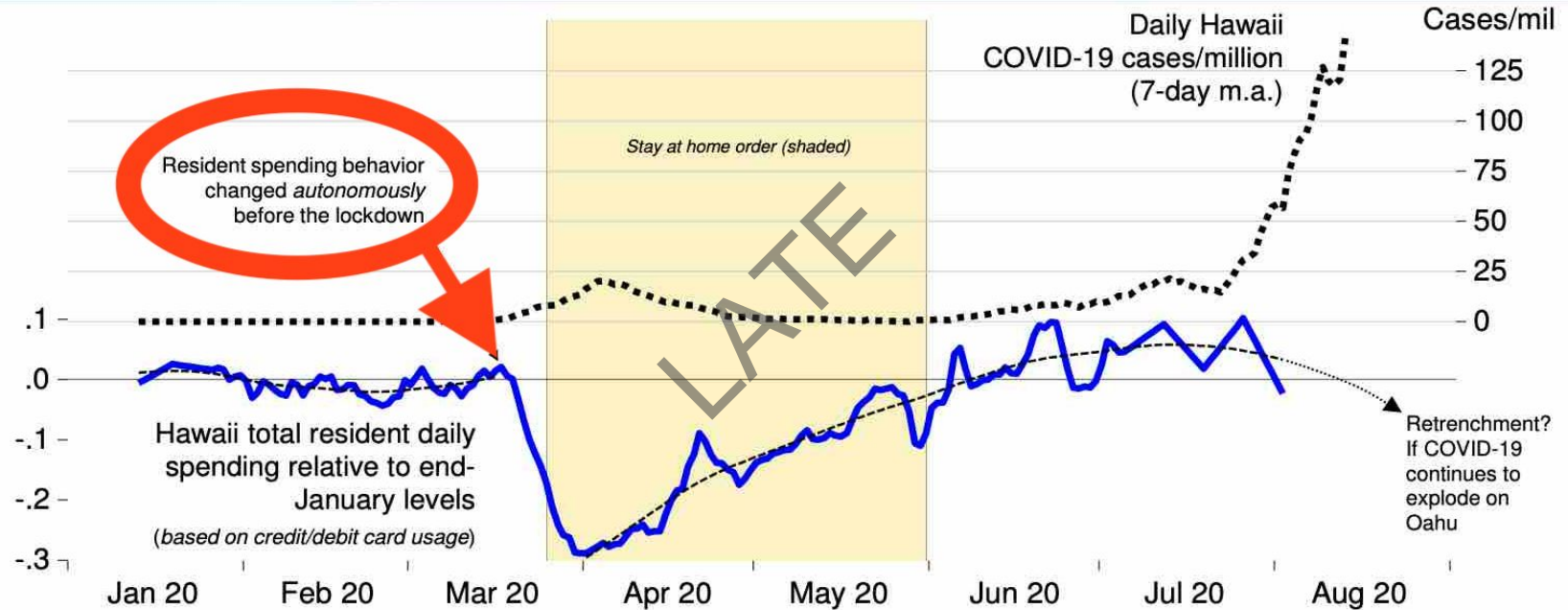
Misperception 1 - Not understanding the complex inverse relationship between opening and economic activity, and the impact of surges.

It is not fully understood that the best long term economic response can in fact be an especially strong (and painful) immediate term health response.

Opening up now may actually hurt the economy more in the long run, not help it. This has been shown on the mainland, and worldwide. States that opened up too soon had surges, requiring additional, avoidable, extended lockdowns.

There is a counterintuitive inverse relationship between opening up and economic activity. The following chart makes this clear.

March 2020 spending fell as risk-averse Hawaii consumers sheltered, mitigating SARS-CoV-2 transmission; resurgence implies retrenchment



Slide copyright 2020 TZ

Sources: Opportunity Insights (<https://tracktherecovery.org/>), daily data on resident debit and credit card use from Affinity Solutions, Hawaii Data Collaborative (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1sd-L317Je9ZhiQh3_uH9jTkl3ckc_o3sgrYauShowCk/edit#gid=0)

Misperception 2 - Not understanding the negative impact of even a small number of daily active cases. Patient Zero Matters.

It has been claimed that with 100-150 daily new cases the schools can reopen.

Schools will not reopen with a high number of cases in the community.

In mid July, when cases were averaging 20 a day on Oahu, a sufficient percent of teachers made it clear they would not teach in person. The unions backed them.

When new cases persist, economic activity declines and schools stay shut.

Open to tourism, and expect to keep schools closed. We have to make a choice.

Misperception 3 - Not recognizing the fidelity it takes to contain covid.

On August 10th, New Zealand, with the best covid response practices in the world, picked up 4 cases while doing 2000 asymptomatic surveillance tests.

They shutdown Auckland within 24 hours and ramped up to 175,000 tests over the next 10 days. They contained it, eventually finding almost 200 cases.

That's what it takes. Aim for this level of response and we'll have a chance at a holiday season. We have over 10,000 known and inferred active cases (from surge test results), and average under 2000 tests per day.

A large increase in the availability of rapid antigen tests is expected in the next two months, and in some places are already available. Why jump the gun now?

A Serious Tradeoff - Kids back in school, or tourists back on the beaches?

There seems to be a feeling that we can open to tourism, live with 100 to 150 new daily cases, maintain a positive test rate of 5%, and get the kids in school.

Our Department of Education (DOE) recently released benchmarks for reopening schools - using the CDC's framework. Except for one thing.

Hawaii's DOE adjusted the allowable new cases to be on a scale of 10,000 instead of using the CDC's scale of 100,000. Why aim so low?

This mean Hawaii based kids will face 10 times the risk kids face in California.

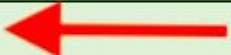
We saw back in July that the teacher unions, and many families, won't go for it.

A Serious Tradeoff - Kids back in school, or tourists back on the beaches?

California School Reopening Benchmarks		
County risk level	Adjusted cases	Per 100,000 Positivity rate
WIDESPREAD Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	More than 7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8% Positive tests
SUBSTANTIAL Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	4-7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	5 – 8% Positive tests
In Person Classes Allowed		
MODERATE Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	1 – 3.9 Daily new cases (per 100k)	2 – 4.9% Positive tests
MINIMAL Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	Less than 1 Daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2% Positive tests

A Serious Tradeoff - Kids back in school, or tourists back on the beaches?

Hawaii School Reopening Benchmarks **Per 10,000**

Number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days, by island of residence*	Consider the following Learning Model
0–5	In-person learning for students 
6–15	In-person learning for elementary students; blended learning for secondary students
16–25	Blended learning for students
26–35	Blended learning for elementary students; learning from home for secondary students
36+	Learning from home for students

SUMMARY

There is no debate that the first and most effective line of defense, by many magnitudes, is to prevent the virus from entering the community in the first place - with a robust testing protocol and quarantine for all travelers.

There is also no serious debate, and no supporting science, that a single preflight test will be effective at catching more than 70% of potentially infected individuals - and quite possibly as little as 30%.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2020/09/why-we-should-set-the-bar-high-on-testing-visitors/>

If the state plans to open without a robust multi-test protocol, due to current test kit shortages, or logistical challenges, please take the following interim step.

Implement a two-test 7-day shortened quarantine, by combining the pre-flight test with a local day 7 test.

If we do this well, we will catch almost all incoming symptomatic and asymptomatic cases.

With this responsible but still risky approach, we'll have cut current quarantine time in half, and have taken a major step toward meeting the needs of all constituents while we await more testing resources.

We'll also have a new gating lever (the choice of the day to do the 2nd test) that we can move forward or backward as new testing resources become available.

Some Sources

Single Preflight PCR test

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/09/14/opinion/politics/coronavirus-close-borders-travel-quarantine.html>

Tahiti's Reopening Testing Requirements (as of July 15) - 1 preflight w/in 72 hours, and 2nd self administered on day 4.
No quarantine.

<https://www.travelpulse.com/news/destinations/tahiti-now-open-to-tourism-heres-what-to-expect.html>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/french-polynesia/>

Alaska Testing Options (as of June 6) - 1 preflight w/in 72 hours, or 1 upon arrival with 2nd between 7 and 14 days.
Unenforced honor system quarantine.

<https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/2020/06/03/read-the-full-text-of-alaskas-updated-health-mandate-on-interstate-and-international-travel/>

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/usa/alaska/>

Asymptomatic and Pre-symptomatic spread

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/06/health/coronavirus-asymptomatic-transmission.html>

Airplane Travel Transmission Research (pre-mask)

https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/26/11/20-3299_article



Testimony BOE <testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov>

PLEASE KEEP DISTANCE LEARNING INTACT

1 message

J A <janearakaki@gmail.com>
To: testimony.boe@boe.hawaii.gov

Fri, Oct 2, 2020 at 10:40 AM

Aloha BOE,

It looks like there was a meeting yesterday, and I just missed it.

If you are still taking testimony please continue reading.

I would like to keep distance learning intact, at least for the 2nd quarter.

As a parent, I would do anything to keep my children healthy, and live a long and fulfilling life. COVID-19 is such an unknown virus to everyone, especially to scientists and health workers who are very experienced. No one knows the long term effects of this virus.

What if this virus takes 20 years off of someone, who caught it, life span? I don't plan to outlive my children, so I would be very devastated, if I made him go back to school and he caught it. Then instead of outliving me and reaching 90 years of life, he passes away a healthy adult of 70?

If a few more weeks of full distance learning means he can live a long and healthy life with no side effects, I think it's worth it.

As for the parents that need their child to go to school, so they could go back to work, do they know of programs they can drop off their child to that will do safe distance learning for them? Programs like YMCA and Kamaaina Kids have facilities parents can drop off their children at, so they can attend distant learning schooling. Some programs offer this service at a really good price, especially for low income families.

If you got this far in my email, I thank you very much for your time and consideration on this matter.

Please BOE reconsider.

Mahalo,
Jane Arakaki