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October 9, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**KAUA'I COUNTY COUNCIL UNIFIED IN SUPPORT OF MAYOR KAWAKAMI
AND URGES GOVERNOR IGE TO RECONSIDER A TWO-TEST PLAN FOR THE
REOPENING OF THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I, STATE OF HAWAII**

LĪHU'Ē, HAWAII: The Kaua'i County Council stands in support of Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami's request to Governor David Y. Ige to reconsider a two-test plan for transpacific travelers for the scheduled reopening of the County of Kaua'i on October 15, 2020. Public health officials have expressed alarm that a single test will miss at least 30% of travelers infected with COVID-19, which could result in three positive cases per 1,000 visitors. The addition of a second test after a shortened quarantine would help pick up many of the positive cases that were too early in their incubation period to be detected under the first test.

On October 5, 2020, Governor Ige denied Mayor Kawakami's request for a two-test plan for all incoming transpacific and interisland travelers to the County of Kaua'i. This request would have allowed all travelers to forgo the 14-day mandatory quarantine if the two tests yielded a negative COVID-19 result.

State officials announced yesterday that they are committing instead to a "surveillance testing program," which would randomly select 10% of travelers to take a State-funded second test, four days upon arrival.

The Council sees the importance of administering a two-test plan for incoming travelers to keep COVID-19 case counts low and minimize the chances for another economic shut down, and shares the views stated by Dr. Libby Char, Director of the Hawai'i Department of Health: "The science currently dictates that more layers of protection, such as more testing, is safer than less testing. While the Safe Travels program adds a greater layer of safety, DOH supports additional testing for travelers entering our state and a second test should be added as soon as testing supplies and logistics make this feasible. The Department of Health will continue to advocate for this additional layer of protection as the situation evolves in Hawai'i and new tests and new information become available."

The Kaua'i County Council stands united in support of Mayor Kawakami and urges Governor Ige to reconsider Mayor Kawakami's request for a two-test plan for reopening the County of Kaua'i.

For more information, contact the Office of the County Clerk, Council Services Division, at (808) 241-4188.

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