



**Representative  
Lauren  
Matsumoto  
Serving You in District 45**

**Aloha friends and neighbors!**

Mahalo to everyone who came to the Waialua Town Hall! It's great to see so many people engaged with the legislative process. Your feedback, thoughts, and engagement go a long way to inform the way the Legislature makes its decisions. And now that the 2020 Legislative Session is moving quickly, it can often be difficult to track the issues and legislation you care about. Be sure to monitor hearing notices, utilize measure tracking, and learn how the system works at [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov).

Recently, there has been a lot of talk in the news and in private circles about the 2019-nCov "Novel Coronavirus", or better known as Coronavirus. To address this major issue, the legislature held an information briefing on Monday, February 3rd. Experts from the Hawaii Department of Health, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii, the Hawaii Healthcare Emergency Management Coalition, and others testified about Coronavirus.

The testifiers explained the extra measures they're taking to ensure the State is ready if a case is discovered in the islands. The state is stocking supplies, ordering test kits, and training firefighters and other personnel to assist with testing at the airport. The State is also stockpiling emergency supplies, masks, and protective equipment. In addition to procuring extra supplies, the State and federal government are examining all ports of entry, including the airport and harbors, to monitor visitors for signs of illness.

As of February 3rd, there are no cases of Coronavirus in Hawaii. Nevertheless, it's a good time to revisit the Department of Health's recommendations to fight the spread of disease and infection. Coronavirus transmits between people the same as a cold or flu. Make sure to cover coughs and sneezes, wash your hands before and after making close personal contact, and avoid touching your face throughout the day. Coronavirus symptoms include a fever, cough, difficulty breathing, and other flu-like symptoms. Additional DOH recommendations include avoiding travel to China. They also do not recommend wearing a face mask, as they would be ineffective against Coronavirus and may instead stimulate the growth of other viruses or bacteria. Get your flu shot, practice the Department of Health's advice, and call your doctor if you're ever in doubt.

For further information and to receive updates about the state of Coronavirus in Hawaii, please visit [health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019](http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/advisories/novel-coronavirus-2019).