



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

## News Release

For Immediate Release: March 2, 2021

---

COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
SARAH K. BLANE, CHIEF OF STAFF  
(808) 241-4900

---

### **Kaua'i submits proposed Rule 25 to Gov. Ige, requesting to rejoin state's Safe Travels program for Trans-Pacific travelers starting April 5**

LĪHU'E – Mayor Derek S. K. Kawakami has submitted proposed Emergency Rule 25 to Governor David Ige for approval. This proposal re-establishes the state's Safe Travels program for incoming Kaua'i travelers, effective April 5, 2021.

"Kaua'i remains one of the safest places in the United States throughout the pandemic, thanks to the efforts of our community-minded residents and health-focused travel restrictions," said Mayor Kawakami. "Over the past few months our community's efforts have allowed us this opportunity to safely rejoin the state's Safe Travels program. At this time, more than 24,000 doses of vaccine have been administered on Kaua'i, and by April we are confident that employees in the hospitality and food service industries will be offered vaccines. Case counts across the state and on the mainland are stabilizing. Our local hospitals are working closely together and have surge plans in place for additional ICU capacity, if needed. They have also obtained more equipment and have COVID testing and treatment options available to respond to any increase in COVID-19 cases."

Since May of 2020, Kaua'i businesses of many types, as well as many sports and social activities, have been allowed to operate and remain open with crowd size limitations, physical distance, and masking requirements, while other areas have experienced surges and increased restrictions.

“It has been one year since the pandemic reached Hawai‘i and we thank the people of Kaua‘i for their sacrifices which have allowed us to remain safe, healthy, and open,” said Dr. Janet Berreman, Kaua‘i District Health Officer. “With the distribution of vaccine to high-risk groups and the improving situation on the mainland, the Kaua‘i District Health Office supports opening Trans-Pacific travel with a single pre-travel test at this time. We continue to monitor new developments, particularly the transmission of new variants, and we emphasize the need for everyone to continue to practice mask wearing, physical distancing and other safety precautions.”

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [continues to advise travelers](#) to take a pre- and post-travel test.

As an added safety measure, the County of Kaua‘i and Kaua‘i District Health Office have partnered to offer free COVID-19 testing at the Kaua‘i War Memorial Convention Hall weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Those who recently traveled and employees in high-risk industries are encouraged to utilize this free testing program.

Additionally, the following Kaua‘i hotels have committed to supporting post-travel testing to their guests:

- Kaua‘i Marriott Resort & Beach Club
- Grand Hyatt Kaua‘i Resort & Spa
- The Cliffs at Princeville
- The Club at Kukui‘ula
- Timbers Kaua‘i at Hoku‘ala
- Sheraton Kaua‘i at Coconut Beach
- The Point at Po‘ipū
- Hanalei Colony Resort
- Kōloa Landing Resort
- Suite Paradise

“While post-travel tests will not be mandatory, we are grateful to our visitor industry partners for going above and beyond to keep our community safe by encouraging their guests to take a test after

arrival,” added Mayor Kawakami. “We have a number of Kaua’i properties already committed and we expect more to come online in the coming weeks.”

If Rule 25 is approved, Trans-Pacific travelers would be exempt from Hawai’i’s 10-day travel quarantine **starting April 5, 2021** by participating in the state’s Safe Travels pre-travel testing program. If approved, it would no longer be necessary for out-of-state visitors to stay in a Resort Bubble or spend time on another Hawaiian island before traveling to Kaua’i in order to receive a quarantine exemption.

If approved, beginning April 5 travelers could avoid quarantine by taking the following steps:

- Take a pre-travel test from one of the State of Hawai’i’s Trusted Testing and Travel Partners within 72 hours of departing to Kaua’i: <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/travel-partners/> (NOTE: Tests taken from any other lab will not be accepted)
- Create a Safe Travels account and complete the mandatory State of Hawai’i Travel and Health Form: <https://travel.hawaii.gov/>
- Upload negative test results to your Safe Travels account before traveling to Hawai’i (NOTE: Travelers who arrive without uploading the negative test result will not be accepted).

For more information about the State of Hawai’i Safe Travels program requirements, please visit: <https://hawaiiicovid19.com/travel/getting-to-hawaii/>

Presently, proof of vaccination is NOT a recognized exemption to the State of Hawai’i travel quarantine. The state continues to evaluate this policy and will inform travelers of any new exemptions as those decisions are made.

Visitors to Kaua’i are NOT eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine, even if they received their first dose prior to their trip. Vaccine supply is for residents only. Please keep this in mind while planning travel.

For more information on COVID-19 on Kaua’i and the travel rules, please visit [www.kauai.gov/COVID-19](http://www.kauai.gov/COVID-19).

###