

**Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station KHCM-AM 880**  
**January 1 – March 31, 2021**  
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**Section 1. Issues.**

**The station has identified the following as significant issues and concerns to our listeners and community during this quarter:**

- 1. Increase in Crime:** Provided coverage of escalating crime in Hawaii.
- 2. Homelessness:** One of the most high-profile issues facing the state, we reported on the growing homeless problem, ongoing “homeless sweeps” and local efforts to address homelessness in Hawaii.
- 3. Coronavirus Pandemic:** How the pandemic is affecting Hawaii.
- 4. Severe Weather:** How Hawaii was affected by the flooding in March.
- 5. PSA:** Public Service Announcement.

## Section II. Responsive Programs

This station broadcast programming dealing with the above-referenced issues as follows:

### 1. Increase in Crime:

**1/8/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The founder of “Proud Boys Hawaii,” who was among the rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol, has been arrested. Nick Ochs was taken into custody Thursday night at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport upon his return from Washington, D.C. CNN earlier identified Ochs — who’s part of the “Proud Boys,” a far-right extremist group — as one of several alleged instigators of the mob. Ochs did not return calls from Hawaii News Now but told CNN he was working as professional journalist. And while he was in the Capitol, he told the network that he didn’t enter the chambers or any congressional offices.

**1/11/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Proud Boys leader and failed political candidate Nicholas Ochs is set to virtually appear in federal court today. Ochs was part of the mob of Trump supporters that stormed the U.S. Capitol building last Wednesday. Using his own Twitter account in which he calls himself the "Dictator of Hawaii Elect," Ochs tweeted a picture of himself smoking a cigarette inside the halls of the Capitol Building. It was captioned "hello from the capital lol." Ochs was arrested by the FBI upon landing in Honolulu this past Thursday. Ochs' lawyer says the "proud boy" was at the event, but only to document it as a journalist. He could face up to ten years in prison if it's determined injures or weapons were involved.

**1/15/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** More than half of Hawaii's inmates who were granted early release amid the pandemic have already wound up back behind bars. That's according to a new study released by The Criminal Justice Research Institute. The state released several hundred inmates last spring to alleviate overcrowding and prevent coronavirus outbreaks in prisons, which have happened at multiple facilities anyway. The study shows that more than 58-percent of the inmates released via the state Supreme Court order have since reoffended. Among them, 17-percent were charged with felonies, and three-percent committed violent crimes. The early release program ended in November.

**1/28/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The number of criminal citations issued across the islands more than tripled in 2020. The amount jumped by more than 200-percent on Oahu alone. Hawaii's Chief Justice Mark Recktenwald blames this on the coronavirus emergency orders that weren't around in any previous year. Recktenwald says the high volume of pandemic-related cases is overtaxing the court system, so he's trying to give law enforcement more "flexible options" that prevent each case from going to court. That could include the addition of a fine system, similar to how parking tickets are handed out.

**1/29/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A former Honolulu FAA employee has been sentenced to two-years probation after she intentionally severed communication lines between air traffic controllers and commercial planes. The woman will also have to pay a five-thousand-dollar fine for jeopardizing the safety of ten planes while they were in flight between the major Hawaiian islands. The 26-year FAA employee made the pilots' radios go completely silent for at least two minutes. As part of Thursday's plea deal, she also resigned from the FAA, and loses her retirement benefits, which were worth more than half-a-million-dollars.

**2/3/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Two thieves rode into Waterfront Plaza on motorcycles early this morning, threatened a security guard, and used a hammer to break into a jewelry store. Honolulu police say the two male suspects rode into the 500 Ala Moana Boulevard plaza, also known as Restaurant Row, just before 1:40 a.m., used a handgun to threaten the guard, and took his cell phone and portable radio. They then used a hammer to break the glass door of the Opal Fields jewelry store, grabbed items and fled. Jewelry and a couple of watches with an estimated total value of under \$5,000 were taken from the store.

**2/4/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** An eleventh-grader from Honolulu is the suspected mastermind behind a nationwide cellphone hacking scheme. The 16-year-old boy was arrested on Wednesday and faces three felony charges that could put him in jail for up to 20 years. The high school hacker is accused of gaining access to cell phones, and using vital information stored on their SIM cards to hack into the owners' bank accounts and other sensitive entities. The Better Business Bureau calls this complicated con a "SIM Swap," and warns that it can disable people's cellphones.

Two women accused of using pepper spray during an attempted robbery at the Keeaumoku Walmart are now in police custody. Police arrested the 29-year-old and 35-year-old suspects for second-degree robbery. The 35-year-old also faces charges in connection with a similar robbery in the Ala Moana area. The Walmart incident happened Saturday night when the two women allegedly tried to leave the store with two flat screen TVs without paying for them.

**2/5/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii residents lost a collective more than 15-million-dollars to scams during the year of 2020. That's according to a new report from the Federal Trade Commission, which estimates the state's average scam victim is out close to 400 bucks. The data also shows consumers on the islands reported more than 73-hundred individual cases of fraud last year, accounting for the majority of all consumer crimes. The most commonly reported scam category was identity theft, followed by imposter scams, online shopping, negative reviews, sweepstakes, and lotteries. The FTC says many of these crimes became more frequent once the pandemic hit.

**2/9/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** We're learning more about the women accused of pepper-spraying employees during a brazen robbery attempt at an Oahu Walmart last month. According to court documents, one of the suspects did the same thing at the Ala Moana Target store the day before. She's accused of ramming an employee with a dolly, then pepper-spraying him before running off with a TV. Then, the next day, she and another woman tried to exchange stolen TVs at the Keeaumoku Walmart but were denied without receipts. Both then allegedly took off, spraying a security guard before they dropped the TVs and ran. The duo was arrested and charged during the weekend.

**2/16/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The father arrested in connection with the disappearance of his 18-month-old daughter has officially been charged with second-degree murder. Kytana Ancog has been missing for more than two weeks after being dropped off at her father's home in Aiea. The child has not been found, and authorities have not explained why her father, 40-year-old Travis Rodrigues, is a suspect. A second suspect, 48-year-old Scott Carter, was also formally charged with hindering prosecution on Monday. Rodrigues is a convicted felon with a lengthy history of drug and firearms-related offenses. His bail has been set at two-million-dollars.

Someone may have intentionally burned down a closed Waikiki bar on Sunday night. Moose McGillicuddy's was badly damaged in a fire, and neighbors tells Hawaii News Now squatters did it. A guy who works across the street says he saw several people climbing down from the roof, where the fire initially started. Others say the bar has turned into a haven for squatters since it had to close last summer, with drug dealing and other illegal activity often happening inside.

**2/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The Federal Trade Commission reports Hawaii residents lost over 15 million dollars because of scams last year. The top category of scams in the state was identity theft through filing unemployment claims. Roseann Freitas, the Hawaii Marketplace Manager of the Better Business Bureau says this isn't surprising due to the coronavirus pandemic. About 10-thousand reports were filed within the state. On average, residents lost 370-dollars each.

**2/25/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The 23-year-old suspect in a fatal stabbing in Hawaii Kai this week has been charged with second-degree murder. Bail for Jake Edwards has been set at \$1 million. The stabbing happened Tuesday morning at the intersection of Hahaione Street and Hawaii Kai Drive. The victim was identified as 23-year-old Parker Trantham. Authorities have not discussed a motive in the case.

**3/25/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Results of a new study indicate Hawaii tops the nation in arrests of public-school students. The study, released by the University of Hawaii on Wednesday, is compiled of data from the Honolulu Police Department, Department of Education and U.S. Office of Civil Rights. According to data, more than one-thousand public school students were arrested between 2013 and 2016, and the numbers disproportionately affected certain groups. Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, black students, and those with disabilities were arrested more than anyone else. Most of the arrests were for truancy or running away from school. The study does not mention specific schools, locations, grade levels, or include a gender breakdown.

**3/29/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A former travel agent has been charged with 47 felonies on suspicion of booking people on phony trips to Hawaii. Dozens of customers have accused Wendy Wong of booking them on fake flights and itineraries, then suddenly cancelling the trips and pocketing their money. One man booked a trip through Wong for 80 friends and family members that cost more than 100-thousand-dollars.

The man fatally shot in his Aiea garage on Saturday night has been identified as Malakai 'Mo' Maumalanga, who served as a counselor at an anti-gang nonprofit. Adult Friends for Youth leaders identified him as the victim, remembering him as a dedicated public servant who was dedicated to helping at-risk teens. Maumalanga, 45, was the director of re-directional services at Adult Friends for Youth. As of Monday morning, authorities had not made any arrests in the case.

## 2. Homelessness:

**1/14/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A wave of rising homelessness is expected to wash over Hawaii in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, yet any increase this year won't be measured because an annual survey has been called off due to COVID-19. The annual census of the unsheltered homeless population statewide, conducted by outreach workers as part of the national Point in Time Count, is typically carried out in January with results reported several months later. But this year because of COVID-19 health risks, the survey won't be done, according to Laura E. Thielen, executive director of the local homeless service coordination alliance Partners in Care.

**2/1/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii is receiving more than \$12.9 million in federal funding to bolster social services for the state's homeless population. The \$12,937,390 in grant funding, which comes from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program for Fiscal Year 2020, will be distributed to service providers across the Islands. Hawaii's Continuum of Care programs — a coalition of nonprofit organizations and other stakeholders — aid in distributing and coordinating federal resources to homeless service providers, and administer the state's coordinated entry system, which provides leasing and rental assistance, rapid rehousing, transitional and permanent supportive housing.

**2/11/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A state-funded program intended to steer homeless people from the criminal justice system and into housing, addiction treatment and mental health care failed to meet its core mission after a two-year pilot in Honolulu. The Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program was intended to give a choice to homeless people accused of minor crimes: Accept a criminal citation or cooperate with a caseworker who could refer them to services. For those who accepted assistance, the Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's office would agree to waive the filing of the criminal charge.

**3/16/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Medical teams are hitting the streets to take COVID vaccines to homeless camps and shelters across Oahu. The initiative launched a little over a week ago. Hawaii's Department of Health says since then, more than 500 homeless people have been immunized. Last Monday, the dining area at the Institute for Human Services men's shelter was transformed into a clinic. Dozens of the non-profit's most vulnerable clients rolled up their sleeves for a jab.

### **3. Coronavirus Pandemic:**

**1/5/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The distribution of coronavirus vaccines throughout Hawaii

remains behind schedule. State officials are blaming it on slow deliveries. They expected to receive 81-thousand doses last month, but instead only got 60-thousand. The holiday season is also being cited as a reason for the slower than expected process. Officials say the state was limited in the number of immunization clinics it could use last month because of holiday-related closures. About 26-thousand doses of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine have been administered across the islands so far. The state's current goal is to have all healthcare workers vaccinated by the end of this month.

The Oahu Interscholastic Association is reportedly getting ready to cancel all of the current school year's fall and winter sports. The decision, which is expected to be announced today, would officially sideline popular sports like high school football and basketball for this school year because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. According to Hawaii News Now, some schools have already told their athletic departments to expect to not have fall and winter seasons.

**1/7/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii saw 322 new COVID-19 cases Thursday, in the highest single-day increase since Sept. 2. The new cases push the total number of infections in Hawaii since the pandemic began to 22,631. Of the new cases, 213 were on Oahu, 56 on Maui, 18 on the Big Island and one on Kauai. There were also 34 cases among residents diagnosed out-of-state. The significant increases comes amid growing concern about the spread of the virus during the holidays. Officials warn that the uptick could be the beginning of a new surge in infections.

Meanwhile, the state reported no additional fatalities. The death toll from the virus stands at 299.

A large coronavirus outbreak has developed at The Queen's Medical Center at Punchbowl. At least 27 medical employees and a dozen patients have tested positive as of Wednesday. The first case was confirmed two weeks ago, when a patient became infected. The hospital says everyone who has tested positive is under quarantine and is being cared for. There is no word on if the infected employees are doctors, nurses or have other positions. The source of the infections also remains unclear.

**1/8/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Coronavirus vaccinations are now underway at the largest assisted living facility in Hawaii. Residents and staff members at Hawaii Kai Retirement Community took their first doses on Thursday. About 350 people at the facility are expected to be vaccinated by the end of today. Elderly people in group living settings are considered some of the most at-risk individuals for catching the virus. They are one of the first prioritized groups in the state's vaccine distribution plan.

Hawaii saw four additional COVID-19 fatalities on Friday, pushing the death toll in the islands to 303. All four of the newly-reported deaths are on Oahu. Meanwhile, there were 264 new infections reported Friday. Of the new cases, 201 were on Oahu, 25 were in Maui County, 10 on the Big Island and three on Kauai. There were also 25 cases among residents diagnosed out-of-state.

A Windward Oahu hospital is beginning its next phase of administering COVID-19 vaccines on Friday. Adventist Health Castle is offering the vaccine to people over 75 as well as more frontline workers. Those include teachers, child care workers, correctional officers, dock workers and more. The hospital is only offering it to people who live or work in Windward Oahu.

**1/11/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii saw 172 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, pushing

the total number of infections in the state since the pandemic began to 25,513. It's the seventh consecutive day Hawaii has seen a triple-digit rise in new cases. Of the new infections, 108 were on Oahu, 33 in Maui County, 20 on the Big Island and one on Kauai. There were also 10 residents diagnosed with COVID-19 while out-of-state. Meanwhile, no new fatalities were reported Monday. The death toll from the virus stands at 309.

**1/12/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Public schools that bought their own PPE in the early days of the coronavirus pandemic will not be reimbursed by the state. Many school principals authorized five-figure purchases on the assumption they'd be paid back with emergency funds down the line. But, state emergency officials say the Department of Education never requested reimbursement. That means lawmakers will have to step in to find a way to cover the costs. State Senator Michelle Kidani, who is chair of the Senate Education Committee, says several schools spent well over 100-thousand-dollars on equipment like masks, gloves, plexiglass and cleaning supplies.

The state Health Department reported three additional COVID-19 fatalities on Wednesday, pushing the death toll from the virus in Hawaii to 312. Two of the deaths were on Oahu while one was in Maui County. Meanwhile, there were 106 new infections statewide. Of those, 73 are on Oahu, 11 in Maui County, seven on the Big Island and two on Kauai. There were also 13 residents diagnosed out-of-state.

It's the ninth consecutive day Hawaii has seen a triple-digit rise in new cases.

**1/14/21– Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii's coronavirus vaccine distribution is lagging behind almost every other state. As of Wednesday, the state has only administered about 24-percent of the doses it has received. According to CDC data, that's the fourth-slowest rate of distribution among all 50 states. So far, the state has received close to 142-thousand doses, but has only administered about 33-thousand of them. Arkansas ranks dead last with less than 15-percent of its doses administered. North Dakota is number one with nearly 74-percent of doses injected into people's arms.

About 1,000 people are scheduled to be the first in line when Hawaii's first mass COVID-19 vaccination site opens at Honolulu's Pier 2 cruise ship terminal on Monday. Hawaii Pacific Health, which is operating the clinic, said it has assembled 20,000 doses to start vaccinating seniors 75 and older, first responders and front-line essential workers by appointment only. The health provider began contacting patients eligible for the shots randomly and has opened an appointment system on its website.

The state Health Department reported six additional COVID-19 fatalities on Thursday, pushing the death toll from the virus in Hawaii to 318. Five of the deaths were reported to have been Oahu residents, with the sixth having been reported on Maui. Meanwhile, there were 179 new infections statewide. Of those, 118 are on Oahu, 32 in Maui County, 13 on the Big Island and none on Kauai. There were also 11 residents diagnosed out-of-state. It's the 10th consecutive day Hawaii has seen a triple-digit rise in new cases.

Hawaii's first mass vaccination site is opening Monday. Hawaii Pacific Health will be running the clinic at Honolulu's Pier 2 cruise ship terminal. Around one-thousand people are scheduled for their shots already. Currently seniors 75 and older, first responders and front-line workers are eligible and can make an appointment on the Hawaii Pacific Health website. More than 40-thousand people in hawaii have already started their vaccine regimen.

**1/15/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Mayor Rick Blangiardi says he will be making changes to Oahu's tiered reopening system. However, he has not disclosed what those changes will be.

Blangiardi says he wants to work alongside the state to make the system less confusing to residents and businesses. The mayor also says he wants to present plans as a unified voice with Governor Ige and the Department of Health. Despite a so-called "Christmas surge" showing itself in the form of more coronavirus cases in recent weeks, Blangiardi doesn't plan to drop Honolulu County out of Tier Two.

Kupuna ages 75 and older are now receiving coronavirus vaccines at one of Oahu's largest hospitals. Kaiser Permanente of Oahu began offering older residents their first doses on Thursday. It's part of Oahu's advancement into Tier One-B of its vaccination plan. Kaiser has four vaccination clinics on Oahu, and three are open to non-members. There will be a mass-vaccination event at Kaiser's Mapunapuna Medical office on Monday. More than 800 appointments have already been booked.

Hawaii reported 150 new COVID-19 cases on Friday. The statewide total for infections since the pandemic began now stands at 24,058. Meanwhile, no new fatalities were reported. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii is 318. Of the new infections Friday, 111 were on Oahu, 26 on Maui, five on the Big Island, and one on Kauai. There were also seven residents diagnosed out-of-state. It's the 11th consecutive day Hawaii has seen a triple-digit rise in new cases.

**1/18/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii reported 129 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, pushing the statewide total since the pandemic began to 24,482. There have been 2,232 cases in the last 14 days. Meanwhile, the state reported no new fatalities. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii stands at 322. Of the new infections, there were 83 on Oahu, 21 on Maui, nine on the Big Island and two on Kauai. There were also 14 residents diagnosed out-of-state. It's the 14th consecutive day Hawaii has seen a triple-digit rise in new cases.

The Blood Bank of Hawaii wants to see people who have recovered from COVID-19. Officials put out a call to all virus survivors in hopes of boosting their plasma supply. The antibodies produced in a survivor's blood can treat people who are now infected and hospitalized. Last week, the Blood Bank launched its "Fight COVID With COVID" campaign.

**1/19/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A coronavirus vaccination could soon become the ticket incoming travelers need to skip quarantine in Hawaii. According to Lieutenant Governor Josh Green, vaccinated travelers could be exempt from the state's testing and quarantine requirements as soon as the spring. This means those who get both of their shots, and can prove it, will not need to take a pre-travel test in order to bypass quarantine. Green says, for the policy change to happen, the CDC must first confirm those who are vaccinated can't spread COVID-19.

Maui County's retailers have begun allowing less shoppers in their stores starting today. All of Mayor Mike Victorino's newest coronavirus-related restrictions have been approved by Governor Ige, and are now in effect. Both big box retailers like Costco and Walmart, along with smaller shops, will now have to cap capacity at 30-percent. And, travelers arriving in Maui County are now required to download the "Aloha Safe Alert" app. The app helps with contact tracing and provides exposure alerts.

Hawaii reported 65 new COVID-19 cases on Tuesday, pushing the statewide total since the pandemic began to 24,546. There have been 2,184 new cases in the last 14 days. Meanwhile, the state reported two new coronavirus fatalities. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii stands at 324. Both of the new deaths were reported on Oahu. Of the new infections, there were 44 on Oahu, nine were on Maui, six on the Big Island and none on Kauai. There were also 5 residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**1/20/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii reported an additional COVID-19 fatality on Wednesday, pushing the death toll from the virus in the islands to 325. The newly-reported death was on Maui. Meanwhile, there were 75 new infections reported statewide. Since the pandemic began, there have been 24,620 cases in the state. In the last 14 days, Hawaii has seen 2,127 cases.

The Hawaii film industry is doing surprisingly well despite the pandemic. Local Director Bryan Spicer says productions are coming to the islands because Hollywood has paused all operations amid rising COVID cases. This includes shows like Magnum P-I. And Spicer says Hawaii is rife with fresh talent. He wants to mentor up-and-coming creatives at his production company, Sight and Sound. Applications are available on the Sight and Sound website.

Thousands of COVID-19 vaccination appointments are being canceled or not made at all because of limited supplies in the islands. Maui Memorial Medical Center canceled about 5,000 first-dose appointments this week and has had to hold more than 15,000 requests due to lack of vaccine supply. Meanwhile, Hawaii Pacific Health, which opened Hawaii's first mass vaccination clinic Monday at Pier 2, will run out of vaccines after Jan. 27.

**1/21/21– Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The University of Hawaii is working on a COVID-19 vaccination rollout plan as the state continues inoculations.

UH President David Lassner said faculty and staff fall under Phase 1B because they are essential workers. He asked that those individuals [fill out a questionnaire online](#) if they want to be vaccinated. Meanwhile, most students will fall into Phase 2, which means they won't receive shots until the spring or summer. Officials remind the UH community to continue following all safety guidelines, including wearing face masks and avoiding large social gatherings.

Hawaii reported three additional COVID-19 fatalities on Thursday, pushing the death toll from the virus in Hawaii to 328. All three of the newly-reported deaths were on Oahu. Meanwhile, there were 119 new infections reported statewide. Since the pandemic began, there have been 24,739 cases in the state. In the last 14 days, Hawaii has seen 1,953 cases.

**1/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A new study ranks Hawaii as the sixth-safest state to be in during the coronavirus pandemic. The study, published by personal finance website WalletHub this week, weighs factors like transmission rates, testing positivity rates, hospitalizations, deaths and the percentage of people vaccinated so far. Hawaii ranked first in two categories because it had both the lowest testing positivity and hospitalization rates in the nation. It ranked third overall in the death rate category. Alaska came in as the safest state, and Arizona is considered the least-safe.

Hawaii reported four additional COVID-19 fatalities on Friday, pushing the death toll from the virus in the islands to 332. All four of the newly-reported deaths were on Oahu. Meanwhile, there were 132 new COVID-19 infections reported. Of the new cases, 99 were on Oahu, 19 on Maui, and five on the Big Island. There were also nine residents diagnosed out-of-state. Since the pandemic began, Hawaii has reported 24,870 COVID-19 cases. The state has seen 1,838 new infections in the last 14 days.

Nurses at the Kapiolani Medical Center are signing a three-year agreement after six months of negotiations. They'll now get an annual seven-percent wage increase for the next three years, improved COVID protocols, an easier paid time-off process and the hospital will share the cost of health insurance. Daniel Ross of the Hawaii Nurses' Association says they are committed to

ensuring the hospital extends the same respect to other healthcare workers, like respiratory therapists, to raise the standard of care for patients.

**1/25/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** More than ten-thousand-400 people have already received their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine at Oahu's Pier Two super-site. More than 18-hundred people got their shots on Saturday alone. Hawaii Pacific Health, which runs the location, says it will now provide daily updates on the number of people vaccinated. The majority of doses have gone to kupuna aged 75 and older. Nine-thousand additional appointments for the site have been booked for the coming days, with more slots set to become available on Thursday.

Oahu's second mass-vaccination site will be opening at full capacity today. More than 12-thousand appointments have already been made for the Blaisdell Concert Hall. Queen's Health Systems, which is running the location, held what is called a soft launch on Sunday, where about 500 people got their coronavirus shots at the location. Appointments will only be available to kupuna aged 75 and older at first. As of last week, about 70-thousand people statewide have been vaccinated, and officials expect this week's count to be significantly higher thanks to the new super site.

Oahu's second COVID-19 mass vaccination site is set to open Monday at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall. So far, more than 12,000 people have made an appointment to receive the Moderna vaccine at the clinic run by The Queen's Health Systems. Queen's will only be vaccinating residents 75 years of age and older at this time, and not individuals who may accompany kupuna. One adult is allowed to come with them. Individuals are asked to bring their ID as well as insurance card.

**1/26/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The state's coronavirus death toll went up by 60 on Monday. Those deaths were not recent, but were identified via a records review conducted by the Department of Health. The previously unaccounted-for deaths took place between August and December. Among them, 51 were on Oahu, six were on the Big Island and three were on Maui. DOH officials blame the delay on healthcare providers failing to report in-care deaths. They also cite the possibility of someone dying from COVID-19 after their medical monitoring period is over. The statewide death toll is now 402.

Hawaii reported 71 new COVID-19 cases Tuesday, pushing the statewide total for infections since the pandemic began to 25,339. Meanwhile, the death toll from the virus in Hawaii now stands at 401. That figure includes 60 COVID-19 fatalities reported Monday that occurred between August and December. Officials said a records review identified the additional deaths. Of the 71 new cases Tuesday, 61 were on Oahu, eight were in Maui County and one was on the Big Island. There was also one resident diagnosed out-of-state.

**1/27/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Educators can now get free COVID-19 tests thanks to a partnership between the city and National Kidney Foundation. The free tests are available at labs on Honolulu airport property and in Waikiki. "With many returning to the classroom, the need to keep our teachers safe is more important than ever," said Mayor Rick Blangiardi, in a news release. "Until enough of our community members are vaccinated, expanding COVID-19 testing opportunities to our educators is paramount for a safer and healthier Oahu." To register for a COVID-19 test, go to [kidneyhi.org](https://www.kidneyhi.org).

Hawaii reported three additional COVID-19 fatalities on Wednesday, pushing the statewide death toll from the virus to 404. Two of the deaths were on Oahu while one was on Maui. Meanwhile, there were 103 new cases reported. Of those, 64 were on Oahu, 27 in Maui County, three on the Big Island. There were also nine residents diagnosed out-of-state. The new infections push the statewide total since the pandemic began to 25,442.

**1/28/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A new survey suggests only half of Hawaii's residents are willing to take the coronavirus vaccine. Among the rest, about 25-point-five-percent say they're undecided, and another 24-point-four-percent don't want to get a shot at all. However, some respondents may have been waiting to see if the vaccine worked. The Department of Health conducted the survey between the end of November and mid-December, when only the first doses of the vaccine were starting to be administered on the islands. The survey also shows Oahu residents are more likely to want a vaccine the closer they live to Honolulu. And kupuna were also more likely to get a shot. About 38-hundred people were surveyed.

More Hawaii residents have been vaccinated against coronavirus than have been infected by it. On Wednesday, Lieutenant Governor Josh Green announced that Hawaii is now the second state to administer more doses than its had cases. More than 120-thousand shots have been given so far, compared to the state's 25-thousand-plus confirmed cases. Green thinks the state will achieve herd immunity if at least 70-percent of the population is vaccinated. He says, at the current pace, that could happen by the late summer or early fall, but at an accelerated rate, it can be done by the Fourth of July. That largely depends on if companies like Johnson and Johnson have their version of the vaccine approved soon, which would create a greater supply.

**1/28/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** About 500 Hawaii lawmakers and state Capitol employees received their first doses of the coronavirus vaccine on Thursday. These employees are considered essential workers, and are prioritized under phase One-B of the state's distribution plan. Frontline essential workers and kupuna aged 75 and older are included in that group, which makes up roughly 20-percent of the population. The next phase will expand eligibility to residents between the ages of 65 and 74, and all residents older than 16 who have high-risk medical conditions. Some lawmakers said they were concerned about the impression getting vaccinated before most of the population would give off. But, many felt keeping their health is essential to keeping the government running in a time of crisis.

Hawaii Department of Health officials today reported one new coronavirus-related death and 115 additional infections, bringing the state's totals since the start of the pandemic to 407 fatalities and 25,656 cases. Today's new statewide infection cases reported by the Health Department include 75 on Oahu, 24 on Maui, five on the Big Island, and 11 residents diagnosed outside of Hawaii.

**2/1/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi is aiming to reduce restrictions on restaurants, bars and youth sports in hopes of boosting the local economy. The mayor says he's going to be meeting with both the Hawaii Restaurant Association and Honolulu Liquor Commission to discuss possible changes in the coming days. During the weekend, Blangiardi said he believes businesses can police themselves as far as health orders go. Bars have been permanently closed under the tier system enacted by former Mayor Kirk Caldwell since July. Honolulu has been stuck in Tier Two restrictions since October.

Hawaii health officials reported three new COVID-19 fatalities Sunday, bringing the death toll in Hawaii to 410. Two of the deaths occurred on Oahu with the third coming out of Maui. Also

reported Sunday were 82 new cases of coronavirus. The new infections push the statewide total since the pandemic began to 25,853.

The new cases are broken down as 59 from Oahu, 10 on Hawaii Island, nine on Maui and four from out-of-state.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, Hawaii Pacific Health says they've completed over 35,000 vaccinations in total, with over 20,000 of those doses being administered at their Pier 2 vaccination center. Over at the Queen's vaccination center at the Blaisdell, a total of 33,112 people have been vaccinated so far. The state is currently offering vaccinations to people in the phase 1a and 1b categories, as well as Kupuna 75 years and older.

**2/2/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Lieutenant Governor Josh Green thinks large gatherings can safely return to Hawaii by May. On Monday, the doctor said enough residents will be vaccinated by then to lift limits on the large gatherings that have been considered a major infection risk for months. His estimation factors in additional vaccine makers like Johnson & Johnson having their shots approved within the coming weeks and boosting the local supply. Last week, Green said he thinks the islands can achieve herd immunity by the Fourth of July if everything goes according to plan. That would mean at least 70-percent of all residents becoming immune via vaccination. More than 150-thousand doses have now been given statewide.

Former State Epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Park is out at the Hawaii Department of Health. Park was a top DOH official during the first few months of the coronavirus pandemic. She went on leave in September amid criticism of the state's spike in infections and difficulty managing contact tracing efforts. Dr. Sarah Kemble took over the role on an interim basis, and still remains on that job. State officials confirm Park left on December 31st, but have not said why.

Hawaii reported 64 new COVID-19 infections on Tuesday, pushing the statewide total for cases since the pandemic began to 26,007. Of the new cases, 41 were on Oahu, 17 on Maui, and four on Hawaii Island. There were two residents diagnosed out-of-state. There were no new deaths reported Tuesday. The death toll in Hawaii stands at 410. In the last 14 days, there have been 1,384 cases in Hawaii.

**2/3/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Governor David Ige thinks it's too soon to ease coronavirus restrictions on Oahu. Last week, Mayor Rick Blangiardi announced plans to meet with local business leaders to discuss the pros and cons of allowing more people at restaurants, and possibly reopening bars for the first time since the summer. He thinks this would give a much-needed boost to the local economy. But, on Tuesday, the governor said he won't support those efforts. Ige says he recently spoke with the mayor and suggested he keep things the same for the foreseeable future in the name of safety, as most residents wait to get vaccinated.

Governor David Ige says he's putting pressure on the federal government to send more coronavirus vaccine doses to the islands. As of Tuesday, the state is getting 40-thousand doses per week that are distributed to its 50 vaccination sites. But, Ige says the state is capable of getting more than double that amount of shots into people's arms each week. Ige also says, even if the supply is doubled, it would likely still take until the end of the summer to get a million residents fully vaccinated.

Hawaii reported four additional COVID\_19 fatalities on Wednesday, bringing the death toll from the virus in the islands to 414. All four of the newly-reported deaths were on Oahu. Meanwhile, there were 74 new COVID infections reported. Of those, 41 were on Oahu, 23 were on Maui, and four on the Big Island. There were also six residents diagnosed out-of-state. The new cases brought the total number of infections in Hawaii since the pandemic began to 26,081.

**2/4/21– Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A bill that would require the Department of Education to report coronavirus cases by individual school is closer to being passed. The proposal unanimously passed in the Senate's Education Committee on Wednesday. Right now, the DOE only reports cases by school "complex." Several lawmakers think this is too broad and blocks crucial information from being released, since some complexes contain dozens of schools. But, the DOE's Deputy Superintendent Phyllis Unebasami testified against the bill yesterday. She says the change could lead to students and families being "ostracized" if people find out they have COVID-19.

The coronavirus pandemic continues to debilitate Hawaii's businesses. On Wednesday, the Hawaii Chamber of Commerce released the results from a survey of 300 businesses. Nearly half of the included businesses say they're still facing severe revenue loss. Many of the owners in that category say they'll have to cut back their workforce, if they haven't already, and had to rely on the federal Paycheck Protection Program to get by. Overall, nearly a third of the surveyed Oahu businesses have cut jobs. On the neighbor islands, the surveyed businesses have laid off an average of five out of every nine employees.

The state will not have to implement the twice-a-month furloughs for thousands of state employees. That's according to Honolulu Civil Beat, who spoke with Gov. David Ige in an interview Wednesday. In December, Ige announced that he would furlough most state workers starting in January, with unpaid days off translating to a 9% pay cut. After pushback from state unions as well as the federal government's \$900 billion pandemic relief package, the furloughs were then delayed until July. According to Civil Beat, Ige said the state was able to "reduce the labor savings" but he still needs to achieve more savings. He did not give specifics but said he would detail his new proposal to state lawmakers soon.

Hawaii reported two additional COVID-19 fatalities on Thursday, bringing the death toll from the virus in the islands to 416. Both of the newly-reported deaths are on Oahu. Meanwhile, there were 107 new COVID infections reported. Of those, 80 were on Oahu, 16 on Maui, and six on the Big Island. There were also five residents diagnosed out-of-state. The new cases push the statewide total to 26,187.

**2/5/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Oahu could finally advance to Tier Three restrictions in a matter of weeks if its coronavirus case numbers continue a downward trend. As of Thursday, the seven-day daily new case average is 59, and the positivity rate is two-point-four-percent. To qualify for the less-restrictive tier, and first overall tier movement since the fall, the case average needs to be below 50. The positivity rate is already where it needs to be, but it must stay below two-point-five-percent for two straight weeks. Tier Three means up to ten people can gather and businesses can expand capacity.

Hawaii on Friday reported 101 new COVID-19 cases. Of those, 65 were Oahu, 27 on Maui, one on Hawaii Island, and eight were diagnosed out of state. The new cases pushed the total to 26,286. In the last 14 days, there have been 1,342 cases in Hawaii. Meanwhile, no new COVID-19 fatalities were reported Friday.

Hawaii now has 30 public coronavirus vaccination sites working to distribute shots to medical personnel, frontline workers and kupuna. While the Pier Two and Blaisdell Center sites have the highest daily vaccination capacity of all, other sites are pulling their weight too. Windward Community Health Center can vaccinate up to eleven-hundred people per day, and is focusing on high-risk workers in the public and private sectors this week. People like law enforcement agents and Department of Public Safety employees got their shots there on Thursday. Others

eligible include those who work for the Judiciary, quarantine hotels and the Behavioral Health Division.

**2/8/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii Department of Health officials today reported 33 new [coronavirus](#) infections, bringing the state's total since the start of the pandemic to 26,500 cases. State officials conducted fewer COVID-19 tests over the weekend. State health officials reported no new coronavirus-related deaths today as the statewide death toll remains at 418. Today's new statewide infection cases reported by the Health Department include 20 on Oahu, seven on Maui, four on the Big Island, and two residents diagnosed outside of Hawaii.

Lieutenant Governor Josh Green thinks it's time for Hawaii to lower the minimum vaccination eligibility age to 65. Green has asked Governor Ige and health department officials to reduce the age requirement from 75 to 65 by March 1st. Green wants to protect more vulnerable people with the United Kingdom and South African variants of the virus spreading more in the U.S. A second case of the U.K. variant was confirmed on the islands on Saturday. The two residents infected with the strain have no recent history of travel, and were not in contact with each other.

Health officials have administered over 202-thousand-200 doses of the coronavirus vaccine in Hawaii. The state's department of health shared the update on Twitter Monday. Currently, the state is vaccinating those 75-years-and older, as well as health care workers.

**2/9/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii could have 75-percent of its population vaccinated against coronavirus by December. That's according to an estimation released Monday by the House Select Committee on COVID-19. Carl Bonham of the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization believes the state will ramp up its vaccination rate in the coming months. He thinks restrictions could start to be significantly lowered by the summer as more people get vaccinated and the overall positivity rate starts to dwindle.

Hawaii's struggling economy may not get a shot in the arm until coronavirus vaccination rates improve in foreign countries. Most of the state's top international travel partners have vaccinated few to none of their residents so far. One-point-seven-percent of Canada's population has had even one shot, while less than half a percent have received both doses. Japan hasn't started vaccinations yet, and Australia will start its efforts later this month. This means, even if Hawaii achieves a higher immunity rate, the tourism economy may only be driven by mostly domestic visitors for the rest of the year.

Hawaii reported 37 new COVID-19 cases Tuesday, pushing the statewide total for cases to 26,531. Meanwhile, no new COVID fatalities were reported. The death toll in Hawaii stands at 418. Of the 37 new cases, 22 were on Oahu, three on Maui, and three on the Big Island. There were also three residents diagnosed out-of-state. In the last 14 days, there have been 1,127 cases in Hawaii.

**2/16/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii residents aged 65 to 74 may be eligible for the coronavirus vaccine in two weeks' time. That's the plan according to Lieutenant Governor Josh Green, who aims to transition the state into phase One-C of its vaccination strategy by the start of March. There are about 148-thousand residents eligible in the next tier, and Green wants to make sure those with underlying health conditions are prioritized. The state is likely getting another 42-thousand vaccine doses this week, which should bring phase One-B closer to completion.

Hawaii reported 17 additional infections on Tuesday, pushing the statewide total for cases to 26,906. It's the lowest daily case count seen in the islands since July.

There were no COVID deaths reported. The death toll in Hawaii stands at 426. Of the 17 new cases, 13 were on Oahu, three were on Maui and one was out-of-state. There have been 850 cases in the islands in the last 14 days.

The return of youth sports in Hawaii will mean keiki wearing masks on the field. The Department of Health released its updated youth sports guidelines on Monday. After individual counties give youth sports the green light, masks must still be worn during play at all times. If the athletes can't wear a mask, then that sport can't resume until the county lifts its mask mandate. The DOH also says no high-fives, handshakes, or fist-bumps, calling those sports traditions unnecessary physical contact. Traveling as a team is strongly discouraged, and testing athletes is not recommended unless they're showing coronavirus symptoms or have been exposed to someone who has it.

**2/17/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Almost all Hawaii public schools can reopen for full in-person instruction according to new CDC guidelines. Most of the state falls under the CDC's low or moderate coronavirus transmission categories, which allow for full, on-campus classes. The state has not aligned itself with this guidance yet. But, on Tuesday, the Governor's office released a statement, saying the Department of Education is working to expand on-campus learning "as soon as possible." Close to three-fourths of the state's public-school students are learning on campus on at least a part-time basis right now.

Hawaii reported one new COVID death and 29 new cases on Wednesday, pushing the statewide total for cases to 26,935. The one death was reported on Oahu, bringing the death toll in Hawaii to 427. Of the 29 new cases, 17 were on Oahu, nine were on Maui, one on the Big Island and two were out-of-state. There have been 810 cases in the islands in the last 14 days. On Tuesday, Hawaii reported 17 new COVID-19 cases, but officials said the figure was an undercount because of a lab reporting error. The state Health Department said lab reporting was "temporarily interrupted" but has since been fixed.

**2/18/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** We still don't know Hawaii's true number of new coronavirus cases for Tuesday and Wednesday. While it looked promising this week, the state health department says a lab issue is what's actually keeping the numbers so low. There were 29 cases reported statewide yesterday and just 17 reported the day before. Earlier this week, officials announced the lab reporting problems had been fixed. But, now they say it might take several days to iron out the kinks. It's unclear when the true numbers will be released, if ever.

Another coronavirus vaccination center is coming to West Oahu. Kaiser Permanente is opening a new site at Nanikeola Clinic in Waianae. There will be a "soft launch," with just a few shots given at the facility each morning starting today. Then it will be running at full capacity beginning Tuesday February 23rd and lasting through Saturday the 27th. Everyone has to reserve an appointment, and non-Kaiser members are still eligible. >>Aloha Stadium Project Leaders Think Existing Stadium Shouldn't Be Repaired

Hawaii reported one new COVID death Thursday and 67 additional infections. The fatality was reported on Oahu and brings the death toll in Hawaii to 428. The total number of cases reported in Hawaii is 27,000. Of the 67 new cases Wednesday, 45 were on Oahu, nine were on Maui, seven on the Big Island, one on Kauai and five were out-of-state. There have been 769 cases in the islands in the last 14 days.

**2/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi could be announcing the return of team sports to Oahu in the coming days. Blangiardi asked the state to lift some of the coronavirus restrictions keeping keiki off the field late last week, as Oahu's key metrics continue to improve and head for Tier Three territory. The mayor says he's working closely with Governor Ige, who could give team sports the green light early this week. As it stands, outdoor teams still can't practice or play together until Oahu reaches the least-restrictive Tier Four.

The state has extended its grace period for the Safe Travels program because of the severe weather that continues to grip the mainland. For two more days, travelers from the mainland will still have four days to take a coronavirus test before flying, rather than the usual three. This means someone who takes a coronavirus test up to 96-hours before flying can still skip quarantine with a negative result.

The coronavirus numbers in Hawaii's public school system are starting to look more promising. Just five total cases were reported among students and employees for the week ending last Friday. Officials say one of the three infected students is in the Kapolei area and hasn't been on campus all year. The downward trend may be attributed to more teachers and school staff being vaccinated on the neighbor islands.

The state reported 52 new COVID-19 infections on Monday, pushing the statewide total for cases since the pandemic began to 27,223. There were no new fatalities reported. The death toll stands at 431. Of the new cases Monday, 21 were on Oahu, 28 on Maui, one on Kauai, and two on the Big Island. There have been 683 new cases in the islands in the last 14 days.

**2/24/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Today is the final day of Tier Two coronavirus restrictions on Oahu. Consistently low case numbers mean restrictions will be further loosened for the first time since October when the island enters Tier Three tomorrow. Restaurants will be able to seat groups of ten people together regardless of whether they live in the same household. The 50-percent capacity limit for restaurants is also going away. Many social gatherings and activities, both indoors and outdoors, can also have up to ten people together.

Longs Drugs will be offering COVID-19 vaccines at four more locations in Hawaii starting Thursday, CVS announced. The new locations include Ewa Beach, Aina Haina and Iwilei on Oahu. Vaccines will also be offered at the Longs location in Kailua-Kona. Approximately 4,680 doses of the vaccine will be available. Longs is already administering shots at seven other locations across the state. These vaccines are being distributed to eligible populations. Patients interested in getting the vaccine at one of these locations can register online at [cvs.com](https://www.cvs.com).

Hawaii reported four additional COVID-19 fatalities Wednesday, pushing the death toll from the virus in Hawaii to 435. Two of the deaths were on Oahu while two were on Maui. Meanwhile, there were 50 new infections reported. Of the new cases Wednesday, 24 were on Maui, 16 were on Oahu, two were on Hawaii Island, and one on Kauai. There were also seven residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**2/25/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Oahu residents are waking up to less-restrictive coronavirus rules for the first time in four months today. Tier Three restrictions are officially beginning after a steady drop of new case and testing positivity rates. The long-awaited advancement is presenting relief for the restaurant industry, as groups of up to ten can eat together again and the 50-percent capacity limit is gone. There will also no longer be capacity limits at retailers and

spiritual services. And, gyms can increase their capacity from 25 to 50-percent. Social distancing and mask rules still apply island-wide. Bars have been closed since the summer, and that's not changing yet either.

Hawaii reported 45 new COVID cases on Thursday, pushing the statewide total for infections since the pandemic began to 27,358. There were no additional deaths. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii stands at 435. Of the new cases Thursday, 24 were on Oahu, 18 on Maui and one on the Big Island. There were also two residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**2/26/21– Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Coronavirus vaccination eligibility is likely on the horizon for thousands more Hawaii residents. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green believes the state will expand access to residents between the ages of 70 and 74 by March 15th. Then, Phase One-C of the vaccination plan could begin by late March or early April. That phase drops the minimum age requirement to 65, and includes those aged 16 and older with high-risk medical conditions, along with essential workers who are not already eligible. There are a half-million residents included in that next phase.

Hawaii high schools have been given the green light to hold limited, in-person commencement exercises. While the commencement ceremonies won't look like they did before the pandemic, the news is encouraging for high schoolers who have already had to give up so much this year such as sports, prom and class trips. The graduation ceremony must be held outdoors or in a venue with adequate ventilation.

Hawaii saw two additional COVID-19 fatalities on Friday, pushing the death toll from the virus in Hawaii to 437. One of the deaths was on Oahu while the other was on Maui. Meanwhile, there were 44 new infections reported Friday. Of the new cases Friday, 25 were on Oahu, 15 on Maui, one on Hawaii Island, and one on Kauai. There were also two residents diagnosed out-of-state. There have been 613 new cases in the islands in the last 14 days. Since the pandemic began, there have been 27,399 cases in the islands.

**3/1/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Lieutenant Governor Josh Green is wondering who will stop people from violating coronavirus restrictions after the Honolulu Police Department suspended its COVID enforcement team. Blaming officers abusing the overtime system, the HPD cut the special unit on Friday, on the same week the statewide mask mandate went into effect. Green says officers need to enforce the state's rules ahead of an expected holiday-driven case surge that's already showing some signs of happening locally.

Hospitals are still struggling even as the number of coronavirus cases might be beginning to fall. The COVID Tracking Project reported 150-thousand new infections yesterday. That's the second straight day it has declined after setting a record high of 198-thousand. The Department of Health and Human Services says more than a thousand hospitals in the U.S. are "critically" short-staffed.

Hawaii reported 29 new COVID-19 cases on Monday as vaccine distribution continued across the state. There were no additional fatalities reported. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii stands at 439. Of the new cases Monday, 17 were on Oahu, eight were on Maui, one was on the Big Island. Three residents were diagnosed out-of-state. There have been 630 new cases in the islands in the last 14 days. Since the pandemic began, there have been 27,588 cases in the islands. Meanwhile, the state said some 356,843 vaccine doses had been administered in Hawaii so far.

**3/2/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The Hawaii Department of Education is aiming to reopen elementary schools for daily in-person instruction on March 22nd. That date, which is right after spring break, is also targeted for getting more middle and high school students back on campus via a blended model. The state health department has implemented new CDC guidelines allowing schools to forgo six-foot distancing measures in favor of other safety protocols. If the target date is met, the DOE will still allow schools to use a blended learning model, if they choose. Schools would also have to limit their number of visitors and volunteers, and restrict activities with outside groups.

Lieutenant Governor Josh Green is laying out a timeline for when Hawaii will expand its coronavirus vaccination eligibility. According to Green, the state is planning to drop the minimum vaccination age requirement to 70 on March 15th. Then, shots would open to those 65 and older and residents with medical conditions by April. Green hopes, by that time, the state will eliminate all inter-island travel restrictions. Then, if all is going well, vaccinated travelers from out of state would be cleared to fly in without restrictions by May via what's being called the "vaccination passport plan."

Hawaii reported 35 new COVID cases Tuesday and no additional fatalities. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii stands at 439. Of the new cases, 18 were on Oahu, 12 on Maui, three were on the Big Island. There were also two residents diagnosed out-of-state. There have been 647 new cases in the islands in the last 14 days. Since the pandemic began, there have been 27,623 cases in the islands. Meanwhile, there have been 362,033 vaccine doses administered in Hawaii so far.

**3/3/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Governor David Ige hopes to allow vaccinated travelers to fly to Hawaii without restrictions by the end of the summer. Ige says he's not ready to lift restrictions soon, but is pleased with the state's vaccination efforts so far. Ige adds that he and his staff spoke directly with the CDC Tuesday, discussing the science of whether someone who is vaccinated can still bring coronavirus into the state. Ige says the state is prepared to implement a restriction-free program for vaccinated travelers, once the CDC confirms it's totally safe.

Kauai is ready to rejoin the state's Safe Travels program, three months after opting out. If Governor Ige approves the request, Trans-Pacific travelers can again forgo quarantine on Kauai with a negative pre-travel coronavirus test, beginning April 5th. Kauai opted out on December 2nd, citing an influx of travel-related coronavirus cases in the weeks after the Safe Travels program launched. In the meantime, some travelers have been staying at "resort bubbles" for three days. If their second post-arrival test is negative after those three days, they're free to go without having to quarantine further.

The state reported two additional COVID-19 fatalities on Wednesday, pushing the death toll from the virus in Hawaii to 441. Meanwhile, there were 20 new cases statewide. Of those, 11 were on Maui, eight on Oahu, and one on Kauai. There have been 640 new cases in the islands in the last 14 days. Since the pandemic began, Hawaii has reported 27,640 cases of COVID-19. Meanwhile, the state put the number of vaccines administered in Hawaii at 371,343. Roughly 15% of the population has received at least one dose of the vaccine. On Kauai, that number is nearly 20%.

**3/5/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Tomorrow marks one year since Hawaii reported its first coronavirus case. Since then, nearly 28-thousand people have been infected on the islands, and 441 have died. But, a year later, three different versions of a vaccine to fight the virus are in the state's arsenal. More than 380-thousand doses have now been given, and Oahu's

vaccination eligibility for the general population expands to people 70 and older on Monday.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa's main spring commencement ceremony will stay virtual for the second straight year. There will not be a traditional in-person spring commencement because of ongoing coronavirus concerns and new cases reported on campus. Instead, individual U.H. colleges will be able to hold their own limited in-person events, with graduate's names being read and some guests in attendance. Videos of those events will then be compiled into a larger commencement ceremony, which will be shown online. Graduates from 2020 are also allowed to participate. This week, Chaminade University announced plans for an in-person commencement ceremony, with a reduced number of guests.

Lanai and Molokai are just days away from expanding coronavirus vaccination eligibility to all residents aged 16 and older. According to the Hawaii Department of Health, half of the residents on both islands have already received at least one shot. There has been an added emphasis on protecting Lanai and Molokai because of how vulnerable they are. There are very few hospitals to support residents, should a coronavirus outbreak hit.

The state reported two additional COVID fatalities on Friday, pushing the death toll from the virus in the islands to 443. Both of the new deaths were on Oahu.

Meanwhile, there were 54 new coronavirus cases reported. Of the new cases, 29 were on Oahu, 18 on Maui, and four were on the Big Island. There were also three cases of residents diagnosed out-of-state. There have been 639 new cases in the islands in the last 14 days.

**3/8/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii residents between the ages of 70 and 74 will be able to get their coronavirus shots starting today. That's a group of about 60-thousand residents. And, people between the ages of 65 and 69 might not have to wait their turn for much longer. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green says the 86-thousand residents in that age bracket will likely be eligible in one to two weeks. Green says, the state would rather start expanding eligibility to more people this month, than wait for 70 to 74-year-olds to get both their first and second shots.

Hawaii reported 45 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, pushing the statewide total for infections since the pandemic began to 27,935. There were no additional fatalities reported. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii stands at 445. Of the new cases Monday, 21 were on Oahu, 11 on Maui, 10 on the Big Island. There were also three residents diagnosed out-of-state. In the last 14 days, there have been 648 cases reported in the islands.

The state department of health says residents will get to choose which brand of coronavirus vaccine they get. On the state Department of Health's Facebook page, acting state epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Kemble said different sites will offer different vaccines. Kemble says residents will be able to see which vaccine is offered at that location and decide where to book an appointment.

**3/9/21– Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A newly introduced state bill aims to allow all vaccinated travelers to bypass Hawaii's mandatory ten-day quarantine. The bill was introduced Monday by District 14 Senator Donna Kim, who says this will give the state economy a much-needed shot in the arm, and do it safely. If passed, both trans-Pacific and inter-island travelers would be free to go after landing, as long as they provide proof of vaccination.

Hawaii reported 42 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, pushing the statewide total for infections since the pandemic began to 27,977. There were no additional fatalities reported. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii stands at 445. In the last 14 days, there have been 645 cases reported

in the islands. As of Tuesday, the state had administered 416,034 vaccine doses. About 17% of the population has received at least one dose.

**3/11/21– Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The city is significantly easing its COVID restrictions, allowing bars to reopen immediately, allowing team sports to resume next month and lifting all attendance restrictions for funerals as long as attendees socially distance and wear masks. Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi said the changes recognize the significant strides Oahu has made in keeping new COVID infections down. He also said the changes were approved by his team of medical experts.

The pandemic may add several years to the embattled Honolulu Rail Project. Transportation leaders estimate they're now facing a three-billion-dollar budget shortfall, as construction costs increase, and revenue used to fund the project lags. The city expects to receive a 70-million-dollar federal funding boost for the project in place of tax dollars that were not collected last year. However, that may only make a dent in the full eleven-billion-dollar price tag.

Hawaii saw 60 new COVID infections, pushing the statewide total for cases since the pandemic began to 28,081. There were no additional fatalities reported. The death toll from the virus in Hawaii stands at 448. In the last 14 days, there have been 665 cases reported in the islands. As of Thursday, the state had administered 436,035 vaccine doses. About 18% of the population has received at least one dose.

**3/12/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii saw one new COVID fatality on Friday, pushing the death toll from the virus in Hawaii to 449. There were also 66 new cases statewide. Of those, 30 were on Oahu, 21 on Maui, and 15 on the Big Island. Since the pandemic began, Hawaii has seen 28,145 infections. In the last 14 days, there have been 689 cases reported in the islands. As of Friday, the state had administered 447,917 vaccine doses. About 19% of the population has received at least one dose.

Anyone age 65 and older will be eligible for the COVID vaccine in Hawaii starting Monday. The state will be moving into vaccine phase 1C which also includes people with high-risk medical conditions, like those on oxygen, dialysis, chemotherapy or infusions. Health officials estimate it will take several months to complete phase 1C, because it covers around 500-thousand people.

**3/15/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii is expanding coronavirus vaccination eligibility to its broadest group yet today. The state is beginning Phase One-C of its vaccine rollout strategy, meaning residents aged 16 and older with high-risk medical conditions now qualify for a shot. The minimum vaccination age for kupuna is also dropping to 65. Other residents deemed essential workers who were not eligible during Phase One-B are also now cleared to get their shots. That includes those working in the hotel and hospitality industry, food service, banking and finance, transportation, construction, media, logistics and information technology.

The state says at least three people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in Hawaii were later infected by the virus. With the CDC reporting that the vaccines are as high as 95 percent effective, doctors told KITV that they aren't surprised some people are being infected, and residents should not be alarmed. They say the vaccine doesn't completely prevent infection, but it does lower the risk of hospitalization and severe symptoms. The health department says those three individuals did not become severely ill and none of them are known to have transmitted the virus.

There were 46 new COVID-19 cases reported across Hawaii on Monday. There were no new fatalities, leaving Hawaii's death toll at 451.

**3/16/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Hawaii reports 48 new COVID cases on Tuesday, pushing the statewide total since the pandemic began to 28,532. Of the new cases, there were 30 on Oahu, eight on the Big Island, seven on Maui and on Kauai. There were also two residents diagnosed out-of-state. In the last 14 days, there have been 709 cases reported in the islands. Meanwhile, as of Tuesday, the state had administered 483,108 vaccine doses.

Hawaii is retaining the unenviable title of having the highest jobless rate in the country. The Star Advertiser reports the unemployment rate in the state jumped back into double figures in January at ten-point-two percent. But while the numbers aren't pretty, the outlook is a bit better. Economists say things are looking up with tourism expected to improve and COVID spread in the state at the lowest of anywhere nationwide. The numbers are expected to improve when February figures are released in about two weeks.

**3/17/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** It may be just weeks until fully-vaccinated travelers can fly between the islands with less restrictions. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green says an inter-island travel modification may be coming in April. Travelers would be able to present proof of their coronavirus vaccination as a way to skip pre-travel testing and post-arrival quarantine requirements. Green feels continuing to ask vaccinated travelers to test is a poor use of resources. All four county mayors would need to sign on before changes to inter-island travel regulations can be made. Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi and Big Island Mayor Mitch Roth say they support the idea as more people get their shots.

Less than nine-percent of the state's Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander population has received a coronavirus shot so far. This comes despite those residents making up 40-percent of the coronavirus cases on the islands. More than 25-percent of Asian residents have been vaccinated, which is the highest rate in the state. They're followed by more than 19-percent of white residents. Meanwhile just about six-percent of black residents have been vaccinated.

There were 69 new COVID cases reported in the islands on Wednesday, pushing the statewide total since the pandemic began to 28,421. Of the new cases, 38 were on Oahu, 24 on Maui, and four on the Big Island. Three residents were diagnosed out-of-state. In the last 14 days, there have been 753 cases reported in the islands.

Meanwhile, as of Wednesday, the state had administered 494,257 vaccine doses.

**3/18/21– Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The Hawaii Department of Health admits it made a mistake in granting 500-thousand more residents coronavirus vaccination eligibility this week. Officials say there aren't enough doses to go around, and certain newly eligible essential workers will now have to wait to get their shots. For now, the state wants to focus on kupuna aged 65 and older, people with serious medical conditions, and employees of hotels, restaurants, and bars. Those three essential worker groups qualify because they're more likely to be exposed to the virus on the job.

Hawaii reported 88 new COVID infections on Thursday as the state also officially surpassed the 500,000-mark for number of vaccine doses administered.

The new cases push the statewide total for infections since the pandemic began to 28,509. Of the new cases, 39 were on Oahu, 41 on Maui, and seven on the Big Island. There was also one resident diagnosed out-of-state. Meanwhile, as of Thursday, the state had administered 504,891

vaccine doses. At least 21% of the state's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine.

**3/19/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Honolulu City Prosecutor Steve Alm is calling for the end of a coronavirus-era state policy that lets suspects arrested for misdemeanor crimes loose on the day of their arrest. He wants courts to be granted the authority to keep suspects locked up based on the crimes they're accused of committing. Right now, people accused of every misdemeanor, but domestic violence, are freed in an effort to reduce the jail population.

Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi is hearing out members of the Oahu wedding industry, who still can't operate at full capacity because of pandemic restrictions. On Thursday, the mayor emerged from his office at Honolulu Hale, and met with about 50 members of the wedding industry who were protesting outside. Blangiardi told them he's not giving up on the issue, and thinks there's a way to safely hold weddings at a greater capacity than the current ten-person limit.

The Department of Public Safety is concerned overcrowding will lead to more coronavirus outbreaks in prisons. Right now, the dozen cases at Maui Community Correctional Center are the only active ones among the state's inmates. But, facilities like Oahu Community Correctional Center are running out of room for social distancing. O-Triple-C is meant to hold 628 inmates and currently has 888. The state has a 500-million-dollar plan in the works to replace that prison.

Hawaii reported 99 new COVID cases on Friday, pushing the total number of infections in Hawaii since the pandemic began to 28,608. There was also an additional fatality reported on Maui. The death toll from the virus stands at 452. Of the new cases, 49 were on Oahu, 37 on Maui, and seven on the Big Island. There were also six cases diagnosed out-of-state. Meanwhile, as of Friday, the state had administered 518,381 vaccine doses. At least 22% of the state's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine.

**3/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** All of this year's King Kamehameha parade events across the islands have been cancelled because of the looming threat of the pandemic. During the weekend, the King Kamehameha Celebration Commission announced large celebrations this year remain too much of a health risk.

Hawaii reports 79 new COVID cases on Monday, pushing the total number of infections in Hawaii since the pandemic began to 28,687. Of the new cases, 48 were on Oahu, 21 on Maui, nine on the Big Island and one on Kauai. There were no additional fatalities. The death toll from the virus stands at 454. In the last 14 days, there have been 886 cases reported in the islands. Meanwhile, as of Sunday, the state had administered 541,584 vaccine doses. At least 22% of the state's population has received at least one dose of the vaccine.

**3/23/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Despite the pandemic, thousands of people are flocking to the islands for Spring Break. More than 28-thousand people landed in Hawaii this past Saturday alone, which is the new highest one-day total since the pandemic started. It also nearly matches the pre-pandemic daily arrival average for the month of March. State officials say, more visitors means more people ignoring the mask mandate. They believe many visitors don't realize Hawaii has strict mask rules, and assume the law is the same as in their home states.

The University of Hawaii has a new study out showing where residents stand on taking the coronavirus vaccine. According to survey results, published Monday, 68-percent of Hawaii's

adult residents have not been vaccinated yet, and 36-percent say they "definitely" intend to get their shots. Nineteen-percent said they will "probably" get vaccinated, nine-percent said they will "probably not," and three-percent said they "definitely" will not.

The state reported 41 new COVID cases on Tuesday, pushing the total number of infections in Hawaii since the pandemic began to 28,892. There were no additional fatalities. The death toll from the virus stands at 454.

**3/24/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Maui Health confirms it accidentally let more than 13-hundred doses of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine go to waste because of an improperly sealed refrigerator door. After discovering the issue Tuesday afternoon, officials called Pfizer, which determined the doses needed to be thrown out. Maui Health says current and future appointments will not be delayed or cancelled because of the misstep. State health leaders say that refrigerator is still usable, but it's now being moved to an area that's constantly monitored. Hawaii has lost about 24-hundred doses of the vaccine to various issues, but this is the first time a large batch had to be disposed of all at once.

Hawaii public health officials are concerned about a spike in coronavirus infections after 500 mostly mask-less people attended a concert put on by Grammy-nominated rapper Swae Lee. New footage shows the crowd jam-packed inside a Quonset hut in Waianae Saturday night, even though state and city rules don't allow large gatherings or public concerts. Social gatherings have a ten-person limit right now. The promoter says guest's temperatures were taken at the door, and claims he received an operating permit. But, the city of Honolulu says it never granted them a permit. It's unclear if police shut the concert down.

A mass vaccination clinic opens Wednesday at Queen's Medical Center-West Oahu. The clinic at the Clinical Service Center, Suite 150, will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day except Mondays. Vaccinations will be open to those 65 and older, those with high-risk medical conditions and select essential workers. A link to register is on [hawaiinewsnow.com](http://hawaiinewsnow.com)

The state reported 58 new COVID cases on Wednesday, pushing the total number of infections in Hawaii since the pandemic began to 28,950. Some 24 of the new cases come from Oahu, 22 on Maui, seven on Hawaii Island, one each on Kauai and Molokai, along with three out of state. There were three new fatalities pushing Hawaii's death toll to 457. Two of the deaths were on Oahu, another on Maui.

**3/25/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Kaiser Permanente plans to run a coronavirus vaccination clinic inside Kapolei's Consolidated Theatres. Movie tickets haven't been taken there for more than a year, but Kaiser will soon begin taking vaccination cards. Officials say the movie theater is ideal because it has enough parking stalls, an open floor plan, and the theater seats can be used to observe people who just got vaccinated. Kaiser hopes to vaccinate two-thousand people per day during the next three months.

Nearly a quarter of Hawaii residents have received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine. The state health department confirms close to 560-thousand doses have been administered to date, not including military numbers. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green says the state is still on track to open eligibility to every adult in early May. He also believes the eligibility age will drop to 55-years-old in a couple weeks. Then, the age limit would drop to 45 sometime in April, before its eliminated, and anyone who wants a shot can get one, given the supply.

The state reported 122 new COVID infections on Thursday and one additional fatality, pushing the death toll from the virus in Hawaii to 458. The latest fatality was on Oahu.

Of the new cases, 84 were on Oahu, 20 on Maui, and 12 on the Big Island. There were also six residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**3/26/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** The Hawaii Department of Health is reporting a dozen fully-vaccinated people have now tested positive for coronavirus in the state. Ten are residents, and two are non-residents who were vaccinated in mainland states, but tested positive in Hawaii. Ages range from 26 to 74-years-old. Of the ten infected Hawaii residents, nine received the Pfizer vaccine and one took the Moderna shots. The DOH report, released Thursday, calls them "breakthrough cases." Six of the residents reported mild symptoms, and four were asymptomatic, while none have been hospitalized. No further transmission has been linked to any of the 12 cases.

Hawaii will lower its minimum coronavirus vaccination eligibility age from 65 to 60 starting Monday. The Department of Health forecasts there will be enough doses available in the coming weeks to safely allow the expansion. Essential workers of all ages who are not yet eligible under the state's Phase One-C still have to wait. Construction, communications, bank, finance and retail workers are next in line. The state continues to expand eligibility by focusing on age before occupation.

Hawaii reported 125 new COVID infections on Friday and one additional fatality, pushing the death toll from the virus to 459. Of the new cases, there were 61 on Oahu, 44 in Maui County and 14 on the Big Island. There were also six residents diagnosed out-of-state. The figures come a day after state Health Director Dr. Libby Char urged residents to be vigilant. Char called the increase in cases "a reflection of all the activities going on in the community." And she urged residents to not let their guard down.

**3/29/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** A rise in COVID-19 cases is threatening to push Oahu back to Tier Two restrictions. Oahu has been in Tier Three, which allows gatherings of up to 10 people, since February 25th. If pushed back, gatherings would be limited to only five again. To stay in Tier Three, Oahu must have an average seven-day case count below 50 and a positivity rate under two-point-five percent. Health officials continue to urge the public to work together to prevent the spread of the virus by practicing smart health protocols like mask-wearing.

Hawaii saw another triple-digit increase in new COVID infections on Monday, with 103 additional cases. There were no new fatalities. Hawaii's total case count stands at 29,511 with 462 fatalities. Of the new cases, 52 were on Oahu, 36 on Maui, and 10 on the Big Island, There were also five cases diagnosed out-of-state. In the last 14 days, there have been 1,158 cases across the islands. As of Sunday, the state had administered 604,570 vaccine doses in the islands.

**3/30/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Kauai has expanded coronavirus vaccination eligibility to all residents aged 16 and older, becoming the first of the four major Hawaiian islands to do so. The expansion comes as Kauai prepares to rejoin the state's Safe Travels program on April 5th. Visitors to the Garden Isle will not be eligible for shots following that date. Kauai County officials say their supply of both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine is widely available, and a clinic offering the one-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine will also be held at War Memorial Convention Hall on the morning of April 5th. More than 36-percent of Kauai residents have now received at least one dose of the coronavirus vaccine.

Hawaii's daily COVID case counts dipped back into double digits Tuesday as health officials reported 71 new infections statewide. There were no new fatalities.

Hawaii's total case count stands at 29,581 with 462 fatalities. Tuesday's numbers snap a five-day streak of triple-digit new cases statewide. Of the new infections, 45 were on Oahu, 12 on Maui, and six on Hawaii Island and one on Kauai. In the last 14 days, there have been 1,175. As of Sunday, the state had administered 604,570 vaccine doses in the islands.

Hawaii's seniors aged 65 and older now account for the lowest rate of coronavirus cases among all age groups in the state. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green believes this is a sign vaccines are working, since that age group has been eligible for several weeks now. Dr. Green also says residents in the 18 to 44 age bracket are now accounting for the highest infection rate. He cites most younger people not being vaccinated yet, and that age group being more likely to go out among crowds. There have been several reports of large illegal gatherings around Oahu lately. And, for the past two weekends, hundreds of mask-less partiers have attended concerts in West Oahu.

**3/31/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Much-needed rent relief may be on the horizon for thousands of struggling Hawaii businesses. On Tuesday, the state legislature advanced a bill that would create a grant program for property owners to offer rent relief to their commercial tenants. The state would use federal money to help businesses cover back rent costs, and adjust how some rent payments are made. The bill now has to be voted on and passed twice by the full state senate, before it goes to Governor Ige's desk for final approval.

Lieutenant Governor Josh Green still believes Hawaii can achieve herd immunity from the coronavirus by July 1st. He thinks at least one-point-seven-million vaccine doses will be in residents' arms by then, and 80-percent of the state's population will be vaccinated. Dr. Green also believes when that happens, all travel restrictions can be lifted, and the state can reopen everything to how it was pre-pandemic. Large gatherings could also safely return, and people could go back to their jobs, in-person. Green thinks mask-wearing and social distancing will stay around for the rest of 2021 as a precaution, but doesn't expect those measures to be the law in 2022.

There were 100 new COVID-19 cases reported across Hawaii on Wednesday along with one new fatality. Hawaii's total case count stands at 29,681 with 463 fatalities. Of the new cases, 42 were on Oahu, 30 on Maui, 16 on Hawaii Island, while Kauai and Lanai also reported a single new case. There were also 10 residents diagnosed out of state. The fatality was that of an Oahu patient. Wednesday's numbers are back into the triple digits in an apparent spring break surge.

#### **4. Severe Weather:**

**3/9/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** At least six homes are heavily damaged or destroyed after torrential flooding sent East Maui residents scrambling for shelter. Haiku residents remained evacuated into the early morning hours after the Kaupakalua Dam overflowed Monday afternoon. The dam, which holds 68-million-gallons of water, was initially reported to have been breached, but its owners say it over-topped. Two major bridges, the Kapakalua Bridge and the Ahi Road Bridge, have also been destroyed.

Meanwhile the Kaupakalua Dam, has been scrutinized by state officials for several months. Last year, state inspectors issued a Notice of Deficiency to the owners of the 136-year-old structure. It's unclear if the company who owns the dam, Mahi Pono, ever worked to improve the

problems. Nine dams across the state were given deficiency notices for being in poor or unsatisfactory condition last year.

**3/10/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Governor David Ige has declared a state of emergency as historic rainfall and flooding continues to cause damage across the Hawaiian Islands. The emergency declaration allows the state to quickly access and spend relief funds. On Monday, several homes in East Maui were severely damaged or destroyed, and roads and bridges were washed out. Yesterday, several communities throughout Oahu reported significant damage and safety concerns. The emergency declaration will be in place through May 8th.

Two people were swept away in raging waters yesterday. Around 4:30 p.m., Honolulu fire dept crews were called out to a report of a person who was swept out in the Waiawa Stream in Pearl City. Multiple units responded on land and by air, but they were unsuccessful in finding the person.. the search resumes at daylight. And over in Waikele, the HFD saved a 27-year-old man who was swept away in his truck.

Major cleanup efforts are underway in Windward Oahu and the North Shore after torrential rains and flooding this week swamped communities, sending fast-moving floodwaters into homes and burying properties under several feet of debris. The governor and Honolulu's mayor surveyed flood-damaged communities on Wednesday afternoon and pledged a quick government response. The governor has declared a state of emergency following days of flooding across the state; the mayor has also signed an emergency declaration.

**3/11/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi has signed an emergency declaration following this week's flooding that caused widespread damage on Oahu. Governor Ige declared a state of emergency for all of Hawaii Tuesday. Crews began to survey the damage yesterday, and say debris in Haleiwa are piled seven-feet high. The water level in the nearby Opaepa Stream quadrupled to 16-feet when the storm was at its peak, causing flooding, and forcing immediate evacuations. Flooding in Hauula also left several homes with severe damage, submerged cars, and knocked down trees. Honolulu officials are asking home and business owners to report damage online in the coming days, so they can get a better assessment of how to approach cleanup efforts.

Some 20-thousand Honolulu-area Hawaiian Electric customers are enjoying electricity again after lighting strikes knocked out their power Wednesday night. Kahala, Kapahulu, Palolo, Waikiki, Manoa and Moiliili all went dark at about 7:00 p.m., as thunderstorms descended on the city. Hunter Street was also shut down for a while as crews worked to clear and repair downed powerlines. All power had been fully restored by about 11:00 last night.

A flash flood warning is issued for Oahu until 4:45 p.m. as a line of heavy showers and thunderstorms move over the Windward side and North Shore. The National Weather Service said rainfall rates are up to 3 inches an hour in some places. Forecasters said the potential for locally heavy rainfall will remain over the islands for at least a few more days, and that could mean more flooding for some island communities. A flash flood watch is in effect for the state through Friday afternoon.

**3/17/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** We're getting a better idea of the path of destruction left behind by last week's flooding on Oahu. The Honolulu Emergency Management Agency released its initial flood damage assessment report Tuesday. According to the report, 107 homes have been impacted. Two have been destroyed, 30 have major damage, 44 have minor damage, and 31 others are considered otherwise affected. Most of the damage was on the

north shore, in and around Haleiwa.

An initial flood damage report says at least 107 homes on Oahu's north shore were affected by the recent torrential rains. Of those homes, 30 suffered major damage and two were totally destroyed. Some neighborhoods like Haleiwa were completely underwater. The report was compiled from a survey residents used to self-report any property damages and will be used by the city to determine whether it can apply for federal aid.

**3/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. 5pm)** Recovery efforts continue roughly two weeks after flooding ravaged Oahu's north shore. Residents and business owners in Haleiwa say the road to recovery will be long, but each day there is progress. The area is looking more normal as debris is cleaned up. Locals say the community has come together to collect donations or provide extra manpower for those in need. But owners and residents continue to hope more relief will come.