

**Quarterly Issues Programs List for Station KHCM-AM 880  
October 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021  
Placed in Public File, January 10, 2022**

**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. Coronavirus Pandemic:** How the pandemic is affecting Hawaii.
- 3. Navy Fuel Leak:** How the fuel leak is affecting residents' water supply.

**Section II. Responsive Programs**

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

## **1. Increase in Crime:**

**10/1/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The man accused of punching a Hawaiian Airlines flight attendant will stay behind bars. Yesterday, a judge ordered 32-year-old Steven Sloan to stay in jail without bond because he poses a danger to the public. Prosecutors claim he was "hearing voices" for two weeks before the incident on September 23rd, and doubted he has the mental capacity to continue with the court hearing. The defense said he is competent, and the judge felt the same way. Prosecutors also say he has a history of drug abuse. Sloan has been charged with interference of a flight crew, which could put him in jail for a year. He's due back in court on October 11th.

**10/5/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** - Three victims were injured Tuesday morning and a suspect apprehended following an attack on Oahu's North Shore that remains under investigation. Authorities responded to the scene on Wehiwa Way near Sunset Beach around 8:10 a.m. Emergency Medical Services described the incident as "an apparent domestic emergency involving multiple patients." Police said the suspect and three victims were taken to the hospital for treatment.

**10/15/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The man accused of punching a Hawaiian Airlines flight attendant will be getting a new attorney. Steven Sloan Jr., was arrested last month after forcing a Hilo-bound flight to return to Honolulu. The 32-year-old has been charged with assault and interference with a flight crew. Prosecutors say Sloan had been hearing voices for at least two weeks prior to the incident. A judge granted his request yesterday for a new attorney, but remains in custody at the Honolulu Federal Detention Center. Sloan's next hearing is scheduled for October 19th.

**10/18/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** An arson suspect is behind bars in connection with a massive surfboard rack fire in Waikiki. Several storage racks full of surfboards went up in flames yesterday morning and smoke could be seen for miles. The fire happened in the beach access alleyway between the Moana Surfrider hotel and the Waikiki police substation. Both buildings were evacuated, but did not suffer major damage. The same surfboard racks were set ablaze last year, damaging or destroying an estimated 525 boards. Police released surveillance footage of an arson suspect, but no arrests were made then.

A federal investigation is leading to the recovery of almost 100-thousand dollars in unpaid overtime wages for 137 workers in Hawaii. The U.S. Department of Labor investigated GU Industrial & Business Corporation, the operators of Waipahu-based Chinese restaurant, Golden Coin. The department found six Golden Coin buffets failed to count and pay for all the hours employees worked, including work-weeks when they put in more than 40 hours. The division also charged Golden Coin over 23-thousand dollars in penalties for the "reckless nature" of its violations.

**10/19/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Honolulu police are still looking for whoever started Sunday's huge surfboard rack fire in Waikiki. The man who was arrested on suspicion of arson shortly after the fire broke out has been released, but investigators haven't said if he's completely

cleared of wrongdoing. The fire destroyed an estimated 575 surfboards stored in the city's racks, and damaged nearby buildings, causing more than 650-thousand-dollars' worth of damage. Hawaii News Now reports the HPD has a video of a possible suspect, but has yet to release it. Sunday was the second time an arson fire destroyed the same surfboard racks in less than two years.

A strategy by Honolulu police and city officials to crack down on homelessness and crime in parks appears to be doing the trick. The Honolulu Police Department has been monitoring the community area for nearly six months. Half a dozen officers canvas Crane Park as well as Moiliili Neighborhood Park and Stadium Park to monitor for illegal activities. They've made 38 arrests and issued more than 25-hundred criminal citations in the parks since arriving in May. And these officers aren't limited to just enforcement, they also offer outreach to those in need. That could be, for example, by referring people to drug abuse and mental health treatment programs or recommending a place to go to get off the streets.

**10/21/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** More details are coming to light in the Michael Miske case. A recent plea deal shows that Norman Akau the Third confessed to multiple attempted murder-for-hire schemes in connection with Miske. The deal outlined several of Akau's actions, including using a badge that he got while working on "Hawaii 5-0" to impersonate an officer during an armed heist. The suspect also admitted he opted out of the hit on Jonathan Fraser, a central part of the Miske case, because Fraser was just "a kid." Akau pled guilty to multiple federal charges in June. The plea deal suggests he'll face a maximum 20 years in federal prison and a fine not to exceed 250-thousand dollars.

**11/4/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Just weeks after a large blaze destroyed a surfboard rack in Waikiki, authorities are investigating yet another blaze at a separate surf rack nearby on Thursday morning. According to the Honolulu Fire Department, crews first responded to a fire at a magazine rack in the area near Kalakaua Avenue and Lewers Street around 3:50 a.m. Around that time, Honolulu police reported surfboards on fire just a few blocks down, in an alleyway known as Duke's Lane, between the Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center and Outrigger Waikiki Beach Resort. HFD could not say if the two fires are related.

**11/5/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** A foster mother has been found not guilty of murdering a three-year-old boy who was under her care on the Big Island. The boy died in July of 2017. The woman claims he fell off a bench at home while wearing virtual reality goggles, and was dead seven hours later. But, the Honolulu Medical Examiner's Office says the boy died of blunt-force head trauma that wouldn't have been caused by falling a short distance. An autopsy also revealed several bruises on his body, which the woman claims came from fighting with his brothers. A judge acquitted the foster mother yesterday, following a non-jury trial, ruling the state couldn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that she caused the boy's deadly head injury.

**11/9/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The man accused of setting the surfboard racks ablaze in Waikiki has pleaded not guilty to arson. The fire that started on the morning of October 17th destroyed more than 500 surfboards and left an estimated 650-thousand-dollars in damage. Prosecutors say surveillance video shows the man carrying a lighter, and four minutes after that,

the area was on fire. The suspect remains behind bars on 70-thousand-dollars' bail. The motive is still a mystery.

**11/10/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Honolulu police are on the hunt for two men who targeted a woman in her 80's during a violent home invasion in Hawaii Kai. On Saturday morning, the intruders broke into the woman's house and wrapped her up in her bedsheet. They then proceeded to ransack her bedroom. But, she was able to grab her medical alert necklace and press the button. The intruders fled the house after seeing the necklace in her hand. The woman says the men were husky, appeared to be in their 20's, and had fair complexions.

In a major development in the investigation of a 6-year-old girl who has been missing for nearly two months, Honolulu police have confirmed they have made two arrests in connection with the case. Police on Wednesday morning swarmed the Waimanalo home where Isabella “Ariel” Kalua was reported missing back in September. HPD and Specialized Services Division units moved in on the house around 7:20 a.m. with guns drawn. After going into the home, they brought out the girl’s adoptive mom, Lehua Kalua. She was arrested minutes later. There’s no word on who the under person arrested was.

**11/11/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The adoptive parents of six-year-old Isabella Kalua are behind bars on suspicion of her murder. The Honolulu Police Department believes the couple killed Kalua in mid-August, a month before she was reported missing from her home in Waimanalo. Lehua Kalua was arrested after officers raided the family's home yesterday. Her husband Isaac was arrested at his job, at a shipyard in Pearl Harbor. Both are being held without bail. Investigators say they discovered information within the past two weeks that led to the arrests.

An inmate remains on the loose after escaping from Oahu Community Correctional Center. Prison officials say Morgan Bear escaped late Tuesday night. They believe he broke a bathroom window, climbed outside, used his jumpsuit to scale a razor-wire fence, then hopped another fence. The 51-year-old had been doing time at OCCC for about a month after allegedly violating a protective order filed by a sibling. Public safety officials did not announce the escape until ten hours after it happened. It's unclear how Bear's escape went unnoticed. This marks the second time an inmate has escaped from OCCC in the past two-and-a-half years.

**11/12/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The adoptive parents accused of murdering six-year-old Isabella Kalua are expected to face a judge today. Isaac and Lehua Kalua were arrested on suspicion of murder on Wednesday. Prosecutors believe they killed the girl in mid-August, a full month before reporting her missing. They told police she walked away from her home in Waimanalo in the middle of the night, but investigators now believe that was a lie. A body has not been recovered, but Honolulu police and the FBI are conducting an extensive search of the couple's property. No cause of death has been announced.

Honolulu police have launched an investigation into a shooting and robbery in the Keeaumoku area early Friday. Police closed off a portion of Kinau Street, between Makiki to Lunalilo streets, for the investigation. Emergency Medical Services said no injuries were reported.

**11/16/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The biological family of six-year-old Isabella Kalua may sue the state for failing to take action to prevent her death. Kalua is presumed dead after her adoptive parents allegedly murdered her in August. On Friday, court documents were released, revealing allegations that the adoptive parents kept the girl in torturous living conditions leading to her death. Speaking with KITV yesterday, Kalua's biological aunt said the family wants to know why the girl was placed with that adoptive family in the first place. Both adoptive parents remain behind bars on second-degree murder charges.

**11/17/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The state agency in charge of protecting at-risk keiki is dealing with funding issues and staffing shortages. Child Welfare Services has come under scrutiny following the suspected murder of six-year-old Ariel Kalua, allegedly at the hands of her adoptive parents. A spokesperson for CWS says the agency was mandated to slash its budget by ten-percent when the pandemic started. And, during the most recent legislative session, the agency's request for additional money to fund prevention services was not granted. CWS also has 170 staff members handling nearly eleven-hundred active foster child cases, and there are 45 job vacancies.

A homeless man is dead following a fight at Waimanalo Beach Park. Police say, yesterday afternoon, a suspect fought the man after an argument about the suspect's girlfriend. Paramedics found the man collapsed near a bathroom, and he died at a hospital an hour later. The exact cause of death is unclear. The suspect is behind bars where he faces a second-degree murder charge. Waimanalo Beach Park has since reopened.

**11/18/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Honolulu police are investigating a kidnapping in the Maili area. On Tuesday afternoon, an eleven-year-old boy was forced into a van, but was let go. Investigators say three men pulled the boy into a white van, and took his backpack and slippers, before opening the door and setting him free. No arrests have been made.

A man is under arrest on claims he punched a security guard at a Honolulu COVID testing site. Police say the 27-year-old attacked the 71-year-old yesterday afternoon when he was told to put on a mask. Officers say the guard was trying to remove the man from the site when he was hit. The suspect is accused of second-degree assault.

**11/19/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Honolulu Prosecutor Steve Alm will seek the maximum punishment for the adoptive parents accused of murdering six-year-old Isabella "Ariel" Kalua. In Hawaii, that rare punishment is a life sentence without the possibility of parole. Isaac and Lehua Kalua are behind bars on suspicion of murdering and torturing the girl they adopted earlier this year. Prosecutors believe she was kept in a dog cage, starved, and died with duct tape over her nose and mouth. Her remains have yet to be found. The couple is being held without bail.

**11/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** A woman is behind bars and facing a murder charge on suspicion of killing another woman with her car in Wahiawa. The 53-year-old woman was arrested in the Haleiwa area late yesterday afternoon. Police say, on Friday night, she got into an

argument with a man and woman. She allegedly hit both with her car before driving off. The 58-year-old woman died at the scene, while the 44-year-old man was not hospitalized.

**11/24/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The adoptive parents behind bars on suspicion of murdering six-year-old Isabella "Ariel" Kalua were the subject of prior abuse investigations. Hawaii News Now reports Isaac and Lehua Kalua were investigated three separate times while they were still fostering the girl. The first investigation happened in July of 2019, after a Child Welfare Services case worker reported signs of abuse to the Honolulu Police Department. The HPD decided not to take action and the case was closed. There was another investigation three months later, when the girl suffered a broken finger that wasn't reported quickly.

**11/29/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The adoptive parents accused of murdering six-year-old Isabella "Ariel" Kalua are scheduled to face a judge at 8:30 this morning. Today is the arraignment of Isaac and Lehua Kalua. They're each expected to officially enter pleas for a long list of charges, including second-degree murder and endangering the welfare of a minor. Less than two weeks ago, a grand jury indicted the couple in connection with Isabella's disappearance. Court documents show they allegedly kept the girl in a dog cage, refused to feed her, and put duct tape over her mouth and nose, suffocating her to death. They're also accused of murdering her in mid-August, a full month before reporting her missing.

**12/2/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Honolulu police have released more details about Tuesday night's shooting that left two people seriously wounded in Kalihi. Investigators confirm both victims, a man and woman in their 20's, were shot in the back. The woman was also punched in the face several times. And, the shooting happened at an addiction recovery home run by Oxford House. Witnesses say, following the sound of gunshots, they saw a shirtless man jump a fence and run toward Nimitz Highway. Detectives also believe the suspect knew at least one of his victims.

**12/9/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The Honolulu Department of Transportation Services is investigating a possible cyberattack this morning. A massive shutdown of online servers at Oahu Transit Services affected all of its networks. While city buses expected to operate on schedule, TheHandi-Van was unable to access or print customer reservations. The city stationed vehicles throughout Oahu to be dispatched and encouraged customers to schedule a same-day pickup over the phone. Residents will also be unable to purchase bus passes at the Kalihi Transit Center due to the outage. Officials did not have a time frame as to when the networks would be back up and running.

**12/10/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Honolulu officials are trying a new strategy to prevent crime in Waikiki. Yesterday, the Department of Parks and Recreation locked up a pavilion along Kalakaua Avenue, and took out the tables and benches inside. Officials say the pavilion was attracting illegal behavior and will probably be replaced with something more commercial, like concession stands, early next year. But, some people who used the benches to play chess say their hangout spot is being unfairly taken away because of criminals.

**12/13/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The FBI and U.S. Secret Service are now looking into a cyberattack that's shut down components of Oahu's transit services. The websites for TheBus and

the TheHandi-van have been down since Thursday, and Handi-van users are still having trouble making reservations online. The attack disabled online servers, took down the websites and reservation system, and temporarily kept riders from using their HOLO transportation cards. On Friday, Department of Transportation Services Director Roger Morton said this seems to be a ransomware attack. But, Honolulu has not received a demand for money. Officials say no riders' personal information has been jeopardized by the cyberattack.

**12/14/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** There's been another cyberattack targeting Honolulu's city services. Yesterday, it was reported a cyberattack took down the timekeeping service provider used by hundreds of employees of Honolulu EMS, the Board of Water Supply, and The Queen's Health Systems. Kronos Private Cloud Services was first disrupted Sunday night. BWS officials say customers are not affected by the apparent ransomware attack, but urge employees to monitor their credit reports for suspicious activity.

**12/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Chinatown merchants are frustrated with ongoing crime, homelessness and mental illness in their community. The city has promised to clean up crime and get more homeless people into treatment or permanent housing. So far, residents aren't noticing a difference. Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi said things in the neighborhood have 'come a long way.' City leaders estimate it will take around six months for people to see a difference in the community.

## **2. Coronavirus Pandemic:**

**10/1/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Friday reported 366 new COVID-19 cases and seven more deaths. The latest infections bring the statewide total number of infections since the pandemic began to 79,572. The new fatalities bring the death toll to 789. In September alone, the state had seen 193 COVID deaths. That was more than the number seen in June, July and August combined. Over that three-month period, Hawaii logged 89 COVID deaths.

Of the new infections reported Friday:

- 212 were on Oahu
- 91 on Hawaii Island
- 39 on Maui
- 13 on Kauai
- 4 on Molokai

There were also seven residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**10/4/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi is getting ready to make last call two hours later. With coronavirus case rates falling on Oahu, he's proposing bars be allowed to serve alcohol until midnight, rather than until 10:00 p.m. Several bar owners have

publicly complained the earlier closing time has been hurting sales. Mayor Blangiardi says it'll still be a while before the city goes back to allowing bars to keep serving alcohol until 2:00 a.m.

The Department of Health will no longer publish a daily breakdown of Hawaii's coronavirus deaths. The breakdowns have included the number of deaths, which island they happened on, the person's age range, gender, if the person was hospitalized, and if they had underlying conditions. The detailed breakdown of each death will be provided every Wednesday, but not daily anymore. DOH spokesperson Brooks Baehr says the decision was made based on the "volume of COVID-19 cases and COVID-19-related deaths," but didn't elaborate. The death toll will still be updated each day.

Hawaii on Monday reported 195 new COVID-19 infections, bringing the statewide total number of cases since the pandemic began to 80,323. The state also confirmed three additional coronavirus-related deaths. The new fatalities bring the death toll to 811.

In September alone, the state had seen 200 COVID deaths. That was more than the number seen in June, July and August combined. Over that three-month period, Hawaii logged 89 COVID deaths.

Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 118 were on Oahu
- 40 on Hawaii Island
- 16 on Maui
- 14 on Kauai

There were also 7 residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**10/5/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Tuesday reported 91 new COVID-19 cases, the lowest number of infections in the state in recent weeks. There were also no new fatalities reported Tuesday. The death toll from the pandemic stands at 811. In September alone, the state had seen 200 COVID deaths. That was more than the number seen in June, July and August combined. Over that three-month period, Hawaii logged 89 COVID deaths.

Of the new infections reported Tuesday:

- 53 were on Oahu
- 15 on Hawaii Island
- 12 on Maui
- 7 on Kauai

There were also 4 residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**10/6/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The state health department is now offering booster doses of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine to all eligible adults. Health officials say the state has enough doses on hand to allow more people to get a third shot. To qualify, residents must have taken their second dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago. They must also be considered at-risk, because of certain health conditions, or their job. So far, most booster doses have gone to kupuna and healthcare workers.



Hawaii on Wednesday reported 168 new COVID-19 infections, bringing the total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 80,582. The state also saw seven additional fatalities, pushing the death toll to 818. In September alone, the state had seen 200 COVID deaths. That was more than the number seen in June, July and August combined. Over that three-month period, Hawaii logged 89 COVID deaths.

Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 100 were on Oahu
- 34 on Hawaii Island
- 18 on Maui
- 11 on Kauai
- 1 on Molokai

There were also 4 residents diagnosed out-of-state.

The state Department of Health said starting Monday, it would stop providing details on COVID deaths such as which county they're from and ages of those who've died. Officials said they do not have the workforce to keep up with the volume of deaths. The number of new deaths will still be updated every day, but the details will be released just once a week. Some 69% of the state's population is fully vaccinated, while 77.1% has received at least one dose.

**10/7/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi is warming to the idea of a return to large gatherings on Oahu. Yesterday, he told local media that he's been working both with Governor David Ige and UH officials to drop restrictions, which reportedly could lead to at least a limited re-opening of Rainbow football at Ching Stadium. Blangiardi says he's also hopeful that the Honolulu Marathon can return to Oahu's streets on December 12th.

The state Department of Health reported 304 new COVID-19 cases on Thursday, pushing the total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 80,886. Hawaii also reported an additional eight coronavirus-related fatalities. The death toll now stands at 826.

The state is no longer issuing details daily on where COVID deaths occurred, their age ranges, and whether those who died had underlying conditions. That information is now only issued weekly.

Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 166 were on Oahu
- 54 on Hawaii Island
- 30 on Maui
- 28 on Kauai

There were also 26 residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**10/11/21– Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii is now the first state with 90-percent of eligible residents vaccinated against coronavirus. The national rate is just above 76-percent. The CDC

announced the milestone late last week, showing nearly one-point-one-million residents across the islands have taken at least one dose. Nearly 100-percent of seniors and 95-percent of those between the ages of 50 and 64 are vaccinated. Only seven other states have vaccination rates higher than 85-percent of their eligible residents.

Hawaii on Monday reported four new coronavirus-related fatalities, pushing the state's death toll to 845. The state also reported an additional 113 COVID-19 infections. The new cases bring the total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 81,614.

Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 69 were on Oahu
- 18 on Hawaii Island
- 10 on Maui
- 10 on Kauai

There were also 6 residents diagnosed out-of-state.

**10/12/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Tuesday reported just 49 new COVID-19 cases, the lowest number of infections in recent months. The new cases bring the statewide total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 81,663. There were also no new deaths reported. The death toll stands at 845.

Of the new infections reported Tuesday:

- 36 were on Oahu
- 6 on Hawaii Island
- 2 on Maui
- 4 on Kauai
- 1 on Molokai

**10/13/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Wednesday reported 127 new COVID-19 infections, pushing the statewide total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 81,790. The state also reported six additional coronavirus-related fatalities. The death toll is now at 851.

Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 68 were on Oahu
- 29 on Hawaii Island
- 11 on Maui
- 5 on Kauai

There were also 14 residents diagnosed out of state.

The Safe Access Oahu program is reportedly having a positive effect on coronavirus vaccination rates. Researchers at the University of Hawaii say vaccination rates among employees at private businesses have climbed by eight-percent since August 30th, when the program was announced. More than 92-percent of Oahu's private business employees are now fully vaccinated. The U.H. Economic Research Organization polled nearly two-thousand businesses for the report. It also found that, since the mandate came into play, close to six-percent of unvaccinated employees chose the regular testing option, while one-point-seven-percent quit or were fired from their jobs. But, 35-percent of businesses have also reported a decrease in customers since August 30th.

Some outdoor events are allowed on Oahu as COVID restrictions begin to ease over the next two weeks. Outdoor seated events, like University of Hawaii football games, can now be held with up to one-thousand attendees, but no more than 50-percent of a venue's capacity. Everyone must be vaccinated and masked, and follow social distancing rules. Starting next Wednesday, indoor events with up to 500 people and outdoor "interactive events," such as weddings or funerals, with up to 150 people will be allowed.

**10/14/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Thursday reported 164 new COVID cases statewide and six additional deaths. The statewide total number of infections since the start of the pandemic is now up to 81,954. Meanwhile, the latest fatalities bring Hawaii's death toll from the pandemic to 857.

Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 87 were on Oahu
- 46 on Hawaii Island
- 14 on Maui
- 8 on Kauai
- 1 on Molokai

There were also eight residents diagnosed out of state.

**10/18/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** State officials have a positive outlook after Hawaii reached a 70-percent overall coronavirus vaccination rate. The big milestone was reached Friday, albeit several months later than originally anticipated. Lieutenant Governor Josh Green says this is "the beginning of the end of the pandemic," but urges people not to let their guards down yet. The Department of Health reports the average daily case count has fallen by 55-percent since the start of the month.

Hawaii's Department of Health is reporting 117 new COVID cases today. The state also reported four coronavirus-related deaths, bringing Hawaii's death toll to 876. Of the new COVID cases, 54 were on Oahu, 29 on Hawaii Island, 13 on Maui, 13 on Kauai, and eight residents were diagnosed out of state. Over the last 14 days, the state says there's been one-

thousand-991 cases on the islands. Some 70-point-two-percent of the state's population is fully vaccinated, while 78-point-five-percent have rolled up their sleeve for at least one dose.

**10/19/21– Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Maui Mayor Mike Victorino has been exposed to coronavirus, but so far, he's tested negative. Victorino was exposed to two infected residents late last week, after meeting with three people opposed to coronavirus restrictions. Two of those three people tested positive after the meeting. Victorino says he only found out about the exposure through a social media post, and says someone should have contacted his office immediately, calling the lack of communication "irresponsible." The mayor is fully vaccinated, but all three people he met with are unvaccinated. The group was asking the mayor to agree to a town hall-style public meeting with more residents against local COVID-19 restrictions.

Hawaii on Tuesday reported just 80 new COVID-19 infections and no additional fatalities. The new cases bring the statewide total number of infections since the pandemic began to 82,591. With no new fatalities, the death toll stands at 876. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,968 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Tuesday:

- 42 were on Oahu
- 6 on Hawaii Island
- 14 on Maui
- 2 on Kauai

There were also 16 residents diagnosed out of state.

**10/20/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Close to 88-percent of Honolulu County employees are now fully vaccinated against coronavirus. The possibility of hundreds of jobs being lost has been avoided. So far, just five of the county's ten-thousand employees have been fired for refusing to get the shots. No police officers, firefighters, paramedics, or lifeguards have been let go for remaining unvaccinated. About 950 employees have filed requests for medical or religious exemptions, and 370 requests have been approved, while the rest are either under review or require more information.

Hawaii on Wednesday reported 139 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the statewide total number of infections since the pandemic began to 82,730. There were no new fatalities reported. The death toll stands at 876. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,936 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

71 were on Oahu, 32 on Hawaii Island, 20 on Maui, 10 on Kauai, 1 on Molokai

There were also 5 residents diagnosed out of state.

**10/21/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** One-million Hawaii residents are now fully vaccinated against coronavirus. Yesterday, the Department of Health reported the state has reached the milestone, adding that 94-thousand eligible residents still haven't been vaccinated at all. And, more than 207-thousand keiki are unvaccinated, but they're not eligible yet. The DOH also says

119-thousand residents have received their first doses of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, but have yet to get their second shots.

Hawaii reported 156 new COVID-19 infections on Thursday, pushing the statewide total number of cases since the pandemic began to 82,886.

The state also confirmed four more coronavirus-related fatalities. The death toll now stands at 880.

Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,798 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 96 were on Oahu
- 17 on Hawaii Island
- 22 on Maui
- 7 on Kauai

There were also 14 residents diagnosed out of state

**10/25/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Five of Honolulu's ten-thousand city employees have been fired for refusing to take the coronavirus vaccine, or for not filling out forms proving they're vaccinated. That does not include any police officers, firefighters, or paramedics. And, three of the state's 13-thousand executive branch employees have also been shown the door for defying the vaccination mandate issued two months ago. Nearly 950 Honolulu city employees have requested a medical or religious exemption so they can still work without getting the shots. Three-hundred-seventy requests have been approved, 106 need more information, and 358 haven't been reviewed yet. The city expects all of the reviews to be finished by next month.

Hawaii reported 97 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, bringing the statewide total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 83,448.

There were no new coronavirus-related deaths reported. With no additional fatalities, the death toll stands at 888.

Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,665 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 42 were on Oahu
- 28 on Hawaii Island
- 8 on Maui
- 7 on Kauai

There were also 12 residents diagnosed out of state.

**11/3/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii has nearly 42-thousand doses of the coronavirus vaccine ready to put into the arms of keiki between the ages of five and eleven. The CDC gave Pfizer's vaccine final approval for younger kids yesterday, and the state already had the doses

pre-ordered and set aside in anticipation of the big announcement. Some hospitals are ready to start giving the vaccine to Hawaii's more than 119-thousand newly-eligible residents today. Hawaii Pacific Health will start vaccinating five through eleven-year-olds today, while the Queen's Health Systems will begin taking appointments tomorrow, and start vaccinating younger kids on Friday. One-hundred-thirty schools will also serve as vaccination sites, with a few starting this coming Monday.

**11/4/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Thursday is reporting 13 new coronavirus-related fatalities, pushing the state's death toll to 932. The state also confirmed 112 new COVID-19 infections. The latest cases bring the state's total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 84,690.

Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,604 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 57 were on Oahu
- 28 on Hawaii Island
- 18 on Maui
- 7 on Kauai

There were also two residents diagnosed out of state.

**11/5/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Researchers believe social media is largely influencing the remaining Hawaii residents who are hesitant to take the coronavirus vaccine. For nearly a year, the Pacific Alliance Against COVID has been visiting schools and community groups, where it's surveyed three-thousand people, asking how they feel about getting the shots. The results found that unvaccinated people are more likely to use social media and other unofficial news sources to shape their views about the vaccine, whereas vaccinated people are more likely to listen to the government and news media.

Hawaii reported an additional 12 COVID fatalities on Friday, bringing the state's death toll from the virus to 944. The state also confirmed 124 new COVID infections.

The latest cases bring the state's total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 84,814. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,589 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 67 were on Oahu
- 22 on Hawaii Island
- 11 on Maui
- 10 on Kauai
- 1 on Molokai

There were also 13 residents diagnosed out of state.

**11/8/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii reported 94 new COVID-19 cases on Monday, bring the state's total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 85,139. There were also no new no fatalities. The state's death toll remains at 962. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,507 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 39 were on Oahu
- 33 on Kauai
- 17 on Hawaii Island
- 8 on Maui

The state also removed three out-of-state residents from its count Monday.

**11/9/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Several Hawaii lawmakers are trying to limit Governor Ige's emergency powers. He's used those powers to make and justify decisions since the pandemic started 20 months ago. State lawmakers in both parties say the governor shouldn't be the only official with the power to declare an emergency. Ige has issued 21 coronavirus-related emergency proclamations, the latest of which expires at the end of this month. It's unclear if he'll try to renew it. State House Speaker Scott Saiki says he's working on a bill that would allow the legislature to block the governor's emergency proclamation, or at least parts of it.

The state Department of Health on Tuesday reported 79 new COVID-19 infections. The new infections bring the state's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 85,218. There were also no new fatalities. The state's death toll remains at 962.

Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,526 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Tuesday:

- 33 were on Oahu
- 21 on Hawaii Island
- 16 on Kauai
- 5 on Maui

There were also four residents who were diagnosed out of state.

**11/10/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaiian Airlines isn't resting its hopes on a big surge of international travelers. On Monday, the U.S. opened its borders to fully vaccinated travelers who have recently tested negative for coronavirus. Hawaiian Airlines officials say they're not expecting much of a difference in travel numbers, since residents returning to popular partner countries like Japan and South Korea still face mandatory quarantine rules.

Hawaii on Wednesday reported six new COVID-19 fatalities, raising the state's death toll to 968. The state also confirmed 142 new COVID infections. The new infections bring the state's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 85,360.

Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 69 were on Oahu

- 28 on Hawaii Island
- 17 on Kauai
- 13 on Maui
- 1 on Lanai

There were also 14 residents who were diagnosed out of state.

**11/11/21– Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Thursday reported three new coronavirus fatalities, bringing the state’s death toll to 971. The state also confirmed 130 new COVID infections. The new infections bring the state’s total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 85,490. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,455 cases detected. Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 51 were on Oahu
- 30 on Kauai
- 27 on Hawaii Island
- 20 on Maui

There were also two residents who were diagnosed out of state.

**11/12/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Friday reported five additional COVID-19 fatalities, raising the state’s death toll to 976. The state also confirmed 138 new COVID infections. The new infections brings the total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 85,628. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,428 cases detected. Of the new infections reported Friday:

- 61 were on Oahu
- 21 on Kauai
- 29 on Hawaii Island
- 13 on Maui
- 2 on Molokai

There were also 12 residents who were diagnosed out of state.

**11/15/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The state Department of Health is reporting 95 new COVID-19 cases and no additional fatalities on Monday. The latest infections brings the state’s total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 85,885. With no new fatalities, the death toll remains at 977. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,366 cases detected. Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 33 were on Oahu
- 25 on Hawaii Island
- 19 on Kauai
- 16 on Maui



There were also two residents who were diagnosed out of state.

Hundreds of keiki have their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine after attending a drive-through vaccination clinic at Aloha Stadium. Saturday's event was Hawaii Pacific Health's first drive-through clinic for keiki between the ages of five and eleven. More than 700 families signed up to get their little ones vaccinated there. On Friday, the Department of Health said, statewide, 71-hundred keiki aged five-to-eleven had received their first dose.

**11/16/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Lieutenant Governor Josh Green thinks Hawaii's Safe Travels program is sticking around until at least next spring. Hawaii has one of the top coronavirus vaccination rates in the U.S., but Green doesn't believe Governor Ige will want to do away with the program until there's a "great decrease" in infection rates worldwide. Safe Travels has now been in place for more than a year. People flying into Hawaii must prove they're fully vaccinated against coronavirus, or present a negative test taken within 72 hours of their flight. If not, they'll have to quarantine in their hotels or homes for ten days.

Hawaii on Tuesday confirmed 63 new COVID-19 cases and no additional fatalities on Tuesday. The latest infections brings the state's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 85,948. With no new fatalities, the death toll remains at 977. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,375 cases detected. Of the new infections reported Tuesday:

- 33 were on Oahu
- 14 on Hawaii Island
- 7 on Maui
- 4 on Kauai

There were also five residents who were diagnosed out of state.

**11/17/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii reported eight additional COVID-19 fatalities on Wednesday, raising the state's death toll to 985. Meanwhile, the state also confirmed 142 new coronavirus infections. The latest cases bring the state's total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 86,090.

Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,336 cases detected. Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 94 were on Oahu
- 15 on Hawaii Island
- 13 on Kauai
- 11 on Maui

There were also nine residents who were diagnosed out of state.

**11/18/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii reported 226 new COVID infections on Thursday. The state Department of Health said the count includes approximately 70 backlogged cases involving testing providers that recently began to provide data to the state's electronic lab reporting system. DOH said the delay includes cases reported across the state. Officials said

they expect additional backlogged cases to be reported in the next few weeks. Meanwhile, the state also reported seven additional COVID-19 fatalities, raising the state's death toll to 992. Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 116 were on Oahu
- 57 on Hawaii Island
- 21 on Kauai
- 22 on Maui

There were also 10 residents who were diagnosed out of state.

**11/19/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii reported 206 new COVID infections on Friday. The state Department of Health said it expects additional backlogged cases to be reported in the next few weeks. Officials said the backlog involves testing providers that recently began to provide data to the state's electronic lab reporting system. Meanwhile, the state also reported six additional COVID-19 fatalities, raising the state's death toll to 998. The latest cases bring the state's total number of infections since the start of the pandemic to 86,522. Of the new infections reported Friday:

- 119 were on Oahu
- 42 on Hawaii Island
- 19 on Kauai
- 18 on Maui

There were also eight residents who were diagnosed out of state. Some 72.3% of the state's residents are fully vaccinated, while 84.7% have received at least one dose.

**11/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** COVID-19 has now claimed the lives of more than one-thousand people in Hawaii. Four more deaths were reported on Saturday, taking the statewide death toll to one-thousand-two. No new deaths were added to the count yesterday. Meanwhile, nearly 87-thousand infections have been recorded, including 90 backlogged cases that were added Saturday. More than 72-percent of all residents are now fully vaccinated, and nearly 85-percent have taken at least one dose.

Even though coronavirus restrictions remain, the Thanksgiving travel rush is upon us. More than 36-thousand people flew to Hawaii on Saturday. That matches pre-pandemic numbers for the date, and it's the most arrivals in a single day since July. Nearly 28-thousand of them were fully vaccinated, while most of the rest showed a negative coronavirus test so they could avoid quarantine. More than 32-thousand of the arrivals were visitors, while most of the rest were residents coming home. The Honolulu, Kahului and Kona airports were the busiest, in that order. About 30-thousand more travelers landed in Hawaii yesterday, with similar big numbers expected to continue all week.

Hawaii reported 92 new COVID-19 infections on Monday, pushing the statewide total of cases during the pandemic to 86,939. No COVID-related fatalities were reported. The death toll from the virus stands at 1,002.

Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,524 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 48 were on Oahu
- 13 on Hawaii Island
- 12 on Kauai
- 19 on Maui

No residents who were diagnosed out of state.

**11/23/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Governor Ige is planning to issue a new emergency proclamation with more relaxed coronavirus restrictions this week. The current emergency proclamation expires one week from today. Ige hasn't said much about which rules he's keeping and which are going away. But, he does say the indoor mask mandate and Safe Travels program are sticking around. Right now, Hawaii has the lowest case rate and second-best vaccination rate in the nation.

**11/24/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii reported six additional COVID-related fatalities on Wednesday, pushing the death toll from the virus to 1,008. The state said 115 new COVID infections were also recorded. The statewide total number of cases during the pandemic has reached 87,106. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,477 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 53 were on Oahu
- 14 on Hawaii Island
- 23 on Kauai
- 14 on Maui

Some 11 residents were diagnosed out of state.

**11/29/21– Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The state Department of Health on Monday reported 71 new COVID-19 cases and no additional deaths. The latest infections bring the state's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 87,585. With no new fatalities, Hawaii's coronavirus death toll remained at 1,018. Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 30 were on Oahu
- 3 on Hawaii Island
- 16 on Kauai
- 21 on Maui

The state said one person was diagnosed out of state.

**11/30/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Tuesday confirmed 79 new coronavirus infections, pushing the statewide total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 87,664. The state also said there were no new fatalities. Hawaii’s COVID-19 death toll remained at 1,018. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,396 cases detected.

- 36 were on Oahu
- 2 on Hawaii Island
- 26 on Kauai
- 11 on Maui

There were also four people diagnosed out of state.

The Omicron [[ ahm-ih-cron ]] variant is already impacting travel to Hawaii. No cases of the COVID mutation have been found in the state, but Governor David Ige says it will only be a matter time. Japan banned all foreign travel and imposed longer quarantines for returning Japanese residents in response to the new variant. Travel experts say that’s not good news for Hawaii’s tourism industry, which was hoping for the return of Japanese tourists.

**12/1/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The state Department of Health on Wednesday confirmed eight additional coronavirus fatalities, pushing the state’s COVID death toll to 1,026. Meanwhile, the state also reported 108 new COVID cases. The latest infections bring the statewide total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 87,772. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,337 cases detected.

51 were on Oahu

- 25 on Maui
- 3 on Hawaii Island
- 9 on Kauai

There were also 20 people diagnosed out of state.

**12/2/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Thursday reported 126 new COVID-19 infections and one more fatality. The latest infections bring the statewide total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 87,898. With one more fatality, the state’s death toll has risen to 1,027. Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 52 were on Oahu
- 34 on Kauai
- 18 on Maui
- 17 on Hawaii Island

There were also 6 people diagnosed out of state.

The state confirmed its first confirmed case of the Omicron variant Thursday and officials said the unvaccinated Oahu resident had no history of travel. That means there is likely community spread of the worrisome mutation in the islands. said state Epidemiologist Dr. Sarah Kemble, in a news conference “It’s going to take a layered strategy to combat this,”. “It’s likely there are

more cases.” She urged residents to continue to wear masks, get vaccinated or a booster shot and take other precautions.

**12/3/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The Omicron [[ ahm-ih-cron ]] variant is in Hawaii. Yesterday, the Department of Health confirmed the first known case of the new coronavirus variant on the islands. The infected person is an adult resident younger than 65 who is unvaccinated, but has no history of travel outside the state. The person also tested positive for coronavirus in the past. They are dealing with mild to moderate symptoms and quarantining at home. State Epidemiologist Doctor Sarah Kemble believes there are likely already more cases of the variant in STATE. Hawaii is one of five states where the omicron variant has been found. The announcement comes right after several coronavirus restrictions were relaxed statewide.

The state Health Department reported 125 new COVID-19 cases and an additional death on Friday. The latest infections bring the statewide total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 88,023.. With one more fatality, the state’s death toll has risen to 1,028. Of the new infections reported Friday:

- 71 were on Oahu
- 18 on Kauai
- 15 on Maui
- 14 on Hawaii Island

There were also 7 people diagnosed out of state.

**12/8/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The state Health Department on Wednesday reported six additional COVID-19 fatalities, raising Hawaii’s coronavirus death toll to 1,039. The state also confirmed 72 new cases. The new infections bring the state’s total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 88,512. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,188 cases detected. Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 51 were on Oahu
- 5 on Kauai
- 8 on Maui
- 8 on Hawaii Island

**12/9/21– Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii reported 143 new coronavirus cases and one additional death on Thursday. The latest infections bring the state’s total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 88,655. With one more fatality, Hawaii’s death toll now stands at 1,040.

Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 98 were on Oahu
- 21 on Maui
- 13 on Hawaii Island

- 8 on Kauai

There were also three people diagnosed out of state.

**12/10/21– Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii reported five additional COVID-related fatalities on Friday, pushing the death toll from the virus to 1,045. The state also reported 170 new cases. The latest infections bring the state's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 88,825.

Of the new infections reported Friday:

- 118 were on Oahu
- 23 on Maui
- 10 on Hawaii Island
- 5 on Kauai
- 1 on Molokai

There were also 13 people diagnosed out of state.

**12/13/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The state Department of Health on Monday reported 150 new COVID-19 cases, bringing the statewide total number of infections to 89,379. With no new fatalities, the state's death toll stands at 1,058.

Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,583 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 122 were on Oahu
- 12 were on Kauai
- 10 were on Hawaii Island
- 3 were on Maui

There were also three people diagnosed out of state.

**12/14/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Health officials are closely monitoring another coronavirus case surge in Hawaii. The Department of Health reports a 121-percent jump in case numbers since Thanksgiving weekend. Oahu has reported more than 270 infections in the past two days. Health officials cite recently loosened restrictions, and holiday season gatherings as possible reasons. So far, the case spike hasn't been reflected in the state's hospitalization count.

Hawaii on Tuesday continued to see an uptick in coronavirus cases, with the state Department of Health reporting 214 additional infections. There were no new fatalities reported. The state's death toll stands at 1,058. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,721 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Tuesday:

- 169 were on Oahu
- 23 on Hawaii Island

- 9 on Maui
- 6 on Kauai

There were also seven people diagnosed out of state.

**12/15/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Even though coronavirus case numbers have been on the rise since Thanksgiving, Mayor Blangiardi has no plans to bring back tougher restrictions for Oahu. The mayor admits he's concerned, but says there's no need to revert to the old rules unless hospitalization numbers spike significantly too. Blangiardi reports Oahu currently has just seven people in intensive care. Yesterday, the Healthcare Association of Hawaii reported 34 coronavirus hospitalizations statewide. Vaccination rates are also up compared to when the Delta variant was surging on the islands.

The state Department of Health on Wednesday reported five new coronavirus deaths at 282 additional infections. The new fatalities bring the state's death toll to 1,063. Meanwhile, with 282 additional infections, Hawaii's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic is now at 89,875. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 1,905 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 230 were on Oahu
- 28 were on Maui
- 13 were on Kauai
- 5 were on Hawaii Island
- 2 were on Molokai

There were also four people diagnosed out of state

**12/16/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii on Thursday reported 395 new coronavirus infections and two additional fatalities. According to the state Department of Health, Thursday's count includes 130 cases not previously reported due to an "interruption with the electronic laboratory reporting system." The backlogged cases are from specimens analyzed between Nov. 28 and Dec. 13. The latest number of infections brings the statewide total to 90,270.

Meanwhile, the state also confirmed two new fatalities, pushing the death toll to 1,065. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 2,169 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 295 were on Oahu
- 55 were on Hawaii Island
- 26 were on Maui
- 7 were on Kauai
- 1 was on Molokai

There were also 11 people diagnosed out of state.

Despite the lab reporting issues, Hawaii has been seeing an uptick in COVID-19 cases in recent weeks, mirroring what's happening on the mainland and around the world.

But while COVID cases have jumped 120% since Thanksgiving, the latest uptick hasn't resulted in an increase in hospitalizations. At least not yet. A total of 35 patients are currently being treated in facilities statewide; 25 were not vaccinated. As cases continue to rise, hospitals are bracing for a spike in new admissions.

**12/17/21– Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The Omicron variant might be spreading through Hawaii faster than recently thought. The state's coronavirus positivity rate has more than doubled in the past six days, going from one-point-four-percent to three-point-one-percent. Health experts believe the Omicron variant is largely to blame, though it's only accounting for two-percent of all active cases on the islands right now. The Delta variant is accounting for the other 98-percent, and is still the dominant strain. However, the Omicron variant appears to be far more contagious.

Newly released modeling data suggests Hawaii is heading for yet another coronavirus case surge very soon. Hawaii Pandemic Applied Modeling Work Group forecasts Oahu could be averaging 500 new cases per day by the end of this month, and one-thousand new cases per day in January. The forecast also predicts the Omicron variant will be the dominant variant on Oahu by next month. Right now it's only accounting for about two-percent of all active cases. Early data shows the Omicron variant is more contagious and infects fully vaccinated people at a higher rate than the Delta variant. But, it's less likely to put people in the hospital.

Hawaii's COVID cases continue to climb as the state Department of Health on Friday is reporting 797 new coronavirus cases and two additional fatalities on Friday. The latest number of infections brings the statewide total to 91,067. With two additional fatalities, the state's death toll now stands at 1,067. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 2,842 cases detected. Of the new infections reported Friday:

- 712 were on Oahu
- 29 were on Hawaii Island
- 23 were on Maui
- 14 were on Kauai

There were also 19 people diagnosed out of state.

**12/20/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Another coronavirus case surge appears to be hitting Hawaii after nearly 25-hundred new cases were reported during the past three days. On Friday, the state reported 797 infections, which was a three-month high. That was topped yesterday, with 972 new cases. There have been more than 42-hundred cases tallied during the past two weeks.

Hawaii reported 840 new COVID cases Monday and no additional fatalities. The latest infections bring the state's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 93,586. The death toll from the virus remains at 1,072. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 4,986 cases detected. Amid an [alarming increase in COVID infections](#), the governor and health leaders are



urging the public to be vigilant and take additional precautions such as getting vaccinated or a booster shot.

Of the new infections reported Monday:

- 742 were on Oahu
- 42 on Maui
- 26 on Hawaii Island
- 21 on Kauai

There were also five people diagnosed out of state.

**12/21/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** There are now 50 confirmed cases of the Omicron coronavirus variant in Hawaii. All but one of the infections are on Oahu. Yesterday, the Department of Health said it was working to identify the source of the new cases, and have reason to believe the variant is also on several of the neighbor islands. The Omicron variant is heavily mutated and highly contagious, but so far, does not appear to cause more serious illness or death than other strains of COVID-19.

A package filled with hundreds of COVID-19 test samples was accidentally delivered to a woman's home on Oahu's north shore. The woman opened the FedEx package thrown in her front yard on Saturday afternoon, and found hundreds of biohazard bags with used coronavirus test samples inside, complete with people's names and dates of birth. The box had a barcode, but was missing her name and address. She threw the box back outside, while her husband rushed their kids to a neighbor's house. FedEx wouldn't take the box, nor would the Honolulu Police Department. It turns out, the tests were taken in Boston, and were supposed to go to a lab in Chicago for analysis. But, somehow they got rerouted and ended up in Hawaii.

Hawaii reported 707 new COVID cases Tuesday and no additional fatalities. The latest infections bring the state's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 94,293. The death toll from the virus remains at 1,072. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 5,634 cases detected.

Amid an alarming increase in COVID infections, the governor and health leaders are urging the public to be vigilant and take additional precautions such as getting vaccinated or a booster shot.

Of the new infections reported Tuesday:

- 647 were on Oahu
- 24 on Maui
- 9 on Hawaii Island
- 10 on Kauai
- 1 on Lanai
- 1 on Molokai

There were also 15 people diagnosed out of state.

**12/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Lieutenant Governor Josh Green wants large pop-up clinics for coronavirus booster shots opened in each of Hawaii's counties. On Monday, Green sent a memo to Governor Ige, saying there should be sites that offer booster shots and testing for two days this week and next week to combat the surge in infections, and the rise of the Omicron variant. Doctor Green believes this would protect people heading to holiday parties and other gatherings.

Oahu could see the return of several restrictions if its number of coronavirus hospitalizations grows to 150. Yesterday, Mayor Blangiardi said that number is the likely "trigger point," especially if case numbers and the positivity rate also keep climbing. Right now, there are 61 people hospitalized with coronavirus statewide, with most on Oahu. While that number isn't high enough to overwhelm hospitals, it has already increased by 50-percent during the past five days.

Hawaii reported 961 new COVID cases Wednesday and two additional fatalities. The death toll from the virus remains at 1,074 Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 6,485 cases detected.

Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 866 were on Oahu
- 58 on Maui
- 21 on Hawaii Island
- 7 on Kauai
- 2 on Lanai
- 1 on Molokai

There were also six people diagnosed out of state.

**12/23/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Hawaii now has 74 confirmed cases of the Omicron variant. Twenty-four more cases were added to the running count yesterday, and state health officials believe it's already become the dominant coronavirus variant on the islands. Most of the cases are on Oahu, though four suspected cases are on the Big Island and two are on Maui. The Department of Health says the percentage of cases that are the Omicron variant are now doubling every two to three days, and going up eightfold in a week. The DOH also says, Omicron is spreading so quickly, contact tracers won't be able to keep up with it.

Hawaii reported 1,511 new COVID cases Thursday and three additional fatalities. The latest infections bring the state's total number of cases since the start of the pandemic to 96,765. The death toll from the virus has risen to 1,077. Over the last 14 days, the state says there have been 7,812 cases detected. Amid an alarming increase in COVID infections, the governor and health leaders are urging the public to be vigilant and take additional precautions such as getting vaccinated or a booster shot.

Of the new infections reported Thursday:

- 1,293 were on Oahu
- 98 on Maui

- 66 on Hawaii Island
- 29 on Kauai
- 3 on Lanai

There were also 22 people diagnosed out of state.

**12/28/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Big Island Mayor Mitch Roth is quarantining at home after testing positive for COVID-19. Roth says he tested positive during Christmas weekend, and will remain at home for ten days. Staff members say Roth is fully vaccinated and received his booster shot earlier this month. A close contact in Roth's household, who is also fully vaccinated, recently tested positive. Roth was asymptomatic when he tested positive, and is now dealing with some mild symptoms. The mayor had already been planning to go on vacation this week.

The number of coronavirus hospitalizations in Hawaii has tripled during the past two weeks, perhaps signaling restrictions will soon return. On December 13th, 34 people were battling coronavirus in hospitals on the islands. Yesterday, that number grew to 100, with 88 patients on Oahu. Thirty-four of those hospitalized are fully vaccinated, but Lieutenant Governor Josh Green says most of them are older than 60, have a chronic disease, and haven't taken their booster shot.

A new data model predicts Honolulu will average four-thousand new coronavirus cases per day by the new year, which is just four days away. Hawaii Pandemic Applied Modeling Work Group's latest forecast also shows 250 coronavirus hospitalizations on Oahu by Sunday, with a worst-case scenario of 881. Right now, there are 88 people hospitalized with the virus on the island. Officials with the work group say in the amount of time there would be 100 Delta variant cases, there are likely 500 to 600 Omicron variant cases, since it's two-and-a-half times more contagious as Delta. The data predicts every 25 to 30 Omicron cases will require hospitalization.

The state Department of Health reported 824 new COVID-19 cases and no additional fatalities. The latest number of cases brings the statewide total to 104,597. Over the past 14 days, the state says there have been 14,514 cases detected. The death toll from the virus stands at 1,082.

Of the new infections reported Tuesday:

- 613 were on Oahu
- 107 on Maui
- 50 on Hawaii Island
- 17 on Kauai
- 25 on Molokai

There were also 12 people diagnosed out of state.

**12/29/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The ongoing COVID-19 spike is impacting emergency services across Oahu. More than 200 first responders were out yesterday, either because they have coronavirus, or because they're in quarantine after exposure. One-hundred-thirty-seven of them are Honolulu police officers. Fifty-six employees of the Honolulu Fire Department, 20

EMS workers, and 13 lifeguards are also off the job. City officials say there are no impacts to service so far, but some ambulance stations have temporarily shut down amid staffing shortages.

The Department of Health has identified two more coronavirus clusters linked with the Hawaii's Finest Music Festival. The festival was held at Oahu's Bishop Museum on December 17th and 18th. One cluster is directly linked with the festival itself, while the other has been traced back to the official afterparty at the Moani Waikiki. The DOH has yet to announce the exact number of cases connected with the events. Health officials want everyone who attended either event to get tested for coronavirus.

Molokai and Kauai have broken their records for coronavirus cases reported in a single day. The Friendly Isle had 25 new infections yesterday, and the test positivity rate in greater Maui County has increased to nine-percent. Molokai also used up its weekly allotment of 225 coronavirus tests by Monday, but the Department of Health has sent more than one-thousand extra tests in response. Kauai then reported a record of 120 infections yesterday, though some of those cases were from Monday, but went uncounted.

Hawaii reported 1,561 new COVID-19 infections and three additional deaths on Wednesday. The latest number of cases brings the statewide total to 106,158. Over the past 14 days, the state says there have been 15,781 cases detected. The new fatalities bring the state's death toll from the virus to 1,085.

Of the new infections reported Wednesday:

- 1,322 were on Oahu
- 134 on Maui
- 26 on Hawaii Island
- 58 on Kauai
- 12 on Molokai
- 2 on Lanai

There were also seven people diagnosed out of state.

### **3. Navy Fuel Leak:**

**10/20/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** State lawmakers are investigating a possible cover-up of last year's fuel leak at the Navy's underground facility at Red Hill. Thousands of gallons of fuel were recovered after leaking near the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center. The Civil Beat recently obtained emails suggesting Navy officials didn't want the spill linked with the Red Hill facility, because the state health department was examining the safety of the system at the time.

Yesterday, state lawmakers asked the Navy to look for evidence of a possible cover-up and report back.

**11/29/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The U.S. Navy is investigating reports of a chemical smell in drinking water at several homes in the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam area, officials said Sunday. The Navy said there's no indication the water is not safe, but officials are still investigating reports and testing the water. Navy engineers visited homes of those who reported the smell and also went to drinking wells and water tanks to investigate. There was no smell or sign of fuel or chemicals in the water. Samples, however, have been taken. The Navy is working with the state Department of Health.

**12/1/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** After three days, the source of a fuel-like smell in tap water near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam is still a mystery. Yesterday, state health officials said preliminary water test results have been "inconclusive." But, an inspector did detect the odor of fuel at the nearby Red Hill Elementary School and the Aliamanu child development center. Those schools taped off their sinks after staff members and students smelled fuel on Monday. The affected water system, which is overseen by the Navy, serves more than 93-thousand people on military bases and at some schools and businesses in the area. The state has received more than 100 complaints from military families this week.

The Board of Water Supply confirms its water system is separate from the Navy's, and it is not dealing with any similar reports of fuel contamination. BWS officials are closely monitoring what is going on near Red Hill and Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The city of Honolulu has a water source called the Halawa Shaft Pumping Station about a mile away from the Red Hill fuel storage facility. City officials say the water there was last tested in October, and showed no signs of fuel contamination.

Hawaii's Congressional Delegation is urging the Navy to act quickly as hundreds of residents suffer the effects of apparent fuel in their tap water. In a joint statement released yesterday, the senators and congressmen called the Navy's response "slow and inadequate," and said it must expedite water testing being done on the mainland. The delegation also wants the Navy to make sure everyone living near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has access to clean, safe drinking water until their water system is deemed safe. Finally, they urged the Navy to be more transparent with the public about the events at its Red Hill fuel storage facility, which recently had a 14-thousand-gallon leak.

**12/2/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** People who get their water from the Navy's system are awaiting more information after test results confirmed petroleum product has likely been coming out of their taps since Sunday. Water samples from a kitchen sink at Red Hill Elementary School came back positive for petroleum contamination yesterday. The state Department of Health says the test results are not final, and don't provide a quantifiable amount of petroleum in the water. The Navy has yet to determine where the fuel is coming from, or say when the water will be safe to use again. But, there is wide speculation it has something to do with a 14-thousand-gallon leak that happened at the Red Hill underground fuel storage facility on November 21st.

**12/3/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Tests conducted by the Navy confirm there is petroleum in the tap water supplying 93-thousand people in the area near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The state Department of Health's tests produced similar findings on Wednesday. It's still unclear how petroleum got into the Red Hill drinking water well, but many suspect it's connected with last month's spill at the Navy's nearby underground fuel storage facility. The well has been isolated since Sunday, when residents first started smelling fuel when they ran their faucets. Hundreds of residents living on military bases have been sickened after drinking or using the tainted water.

Diesel fuel may be what's running through the Navy's water supply. Hawaii News Now sent water samples to a private lab, which yesterday detected a presence of diesel. The Navy has not commented further, other than saying its tests did confirm petroleum in the water that about 93-thousand people rely on. The independently tested water samples were taken from areas near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, where people say they've been smelling fuel in their water since Sunday. Military housing advocates say they've received nearly 700 complaints of illnesses from people who drank or used the water.

Lieutenant Governor Josh Green wants all of the fuel stored in above-ground tanks at the Navy's Red Hill facility to be transferred to an off-site facility. In a proposal submitted to Governor Ige last night, Green says the fuel should be moved temporarily as the Navy investigates how one of its wells in the area became contaminated with petroleum.

**12/8/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The Navy is fighting the state's order to shut down the fuel tanks at Red Hill and remove all the jet fuel. Governor Ige says he told Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro the emergency order was coming on Monday, but based on his reaction, he figured it would be resisted. Del Toro has told the media it's not an order, but a "request." Ige also says the Navy hasn't been forthcoming about exactly what's going on at Red Hill.

On Monday, the Navy confirmed it ceased operations at the fuel tanks on November 27th, one day before families on military bases started reporting an odor and an oily sheen in their tap water, and health effects after using it. Ige says he wasn't aware of this at all until Monday. The Navy still hasn't said when the water crisis will be solved.

The Navy confirms it shut down a second well as officials continue to investigate how its drinking water system was contaminated with fuel. The Navy says it shut off the Halawa Shaft on Friday, and has been testing it regularly ever since. The nearby Red Hill Shaft was shut down after the fuel contamination was discovered late last month. This means the Navy is now only pumping water from its Waiawa Shaft.

**12/9/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The Navy has detected high amounts of diesel fuel in its Aiea Halawa water shaft. That makes two Navy water sources contaminated with fuel. The other is the Red Hill Well, which was shut down last week. The Department of Health says water samples taken from the Aiea Halawa shaft on Sunday tested positive for more than twice the state limit for diesel fuel allowed in drinking water. The Navy operates three wells that supply drinking

water to Oahu's military families, and some civilians. The Navy says it shut the Aiea Halawa Shaft down last Friday.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply confirms it has shut off both its Halawa and Aiea water wells as a precaution. This comes after a second Navy-operated water source in the area tested positive for fuel contamination last night. The BWS is awaiting water test results for its two wells nearby. Those results aren't expected until late next week. The Halawa and Aiea wells are separate from the Navy's contaminated Halawa Aiea water line, which is about a mile-and-a-half away.

The Department of Health is investigating reports of water-related illnesses at a former military housing area in Ewa Beach. Kapilina Beach Homes is mostly home to civilians these days, but the community is still supplied by the Navy's fuel-contaminated drinking water system. A week ago, a 17-year-old boy who lives there was rushed to the hospital with severe swelling after showering and brushing his teeth. Doctors believe it was a reaction to toxic chemicals. Another person who lives at Kapilina Beach Homes was hospitalized with a severe rash after showering on Friday. The DOH will be testing the water at the community today. Seven public schools also get their water from the Navy. They've been advised to not turn on their taps.

State Senator Kurt Fevella thinks Oahu's water crisis should warrant criminal charges. Yesterday, the Ewa Beach representative said the state should investigate how the Navy mishandled its operation of the Red Hill fuel tanks. And, he said whoever is accountable should face criminal prosecution for negligence.

**12/10/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Senator Brian Schatz is calling on the EPA to immediately take over the testing of the Navy's fuel-tainted water system on Oahu. Schatz believes it would alleviate the ongoing confusion between the Navy, the Department of Health, and the Board of Water Supply. Right now, the Navy is testing its own water, and sends the results to the DOH, which then sends them to the BWS. Schatz says the EPA should be the clear and only point of contact with Hawaii's residents about what's happening with their water, rather than "multiple agencies disagreeing with each other via press release." For now, the EPA will continue to assist with the emergency response effort.

State Representative Bob McDermott has released internal documents that suggest the Navy's fuel tanks at Red Hill are crumbling. The documents also say the Navy has known this is going on for more than 12 years. The 80-plus-year-old concrete containment system holding the tanks together is reportedly cracking as the years go on. Steel liners were previously repaired, but the concrete couldn't be fixed. McDermott says a report from 2007 found working on the concrete holding the fuel was too dangerous and expensive for the Navy to take on. McDermott is calling on Hawaii's Congressional Delegation to demand a complete shutdown of the Red Hill fuel storage facility.

**12/13/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** A team of divers is now working to pump fuel-contaminated water out of the Navy's Red Hill Shaft. Divers have been skimming tainted water

off the surface of the shaft, and using hydraulic pumps to send larger sections of contaminated water outside. The water then goes into a holding tank, where it will be sampled and tested. The dive team believes most of the fuel-contaminated water is on the surface of the shaft, since chemical particles tend to float to the top. Test results released Friday show the water in the Navy's Red Hill Shaft contains petroleum levels up to 350-times the state limit for safe drinking water.

**12/15/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The Navy is shipping in nearly two-dozen huge filtration systems to help crews clean fuel out of 25-million-gallons of water. The Navy says, if the process works, it would take a week or two to rid its water supply of petroleum-based chemicals. Officials say they're essentially large capacity versions of carbon Brita filters, which people use to filter their drinking water at home. Meanwhile, the Department of Health has ordered the Navy to stop flushing its contaminated water onto the streets of Oahu. Earlier this month, images were circulating showing water shooting out of spigots and fire hydrants at the Navy Exchange mall, and in military housing areas on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

**12/16/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The tap water from five more areas along the Navy's water line has tested positive for petroleum contamination. Yesterday, the Department of Health released 27 new lab reports from its samples of the Navy's water. Five results showed trace levels of petroleum, including in the water taken from homes in Iroquois Point and McGrew Point. Iroquois Point is the site of Kapilina Beach Homes, a former military housing area where several residents recently had chemical reactions to showering. However, the contamination level in those homes is well below the DOH's Environmental Action Level.

The Honolulu City Council has sent a resolution to President Biden, calling for the closure of the Navy's Red Hill fuel storage facility. The resolution, which passed unanimously yesterday, demands the Navy to start "the immediate defueling, permanent removal, and relocation" of the World War Two-era fuel tanks. Ernest Lau, of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply agrees, recently saying the Navy can build a new storage facility, but the city can't build another aquifer. The 187-million-gallons of fuel in the Red Hill tanks sit just 100 feet above Honolulu's main groundwater aquifer, and possibly caused the recent major fuel contamination in the Navy's water system.

**12/17/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** The Navy claims tests of its water system since November 29th have shown no detectable fuel contamination past the Department of Health's Environmental Action Level. The Navy posted recent test results yesterday, saying it wants to ensure the public has full access to data. Navy officials say this is also the same data it sends to the DOH, after water samples are collected and analyzed in third-party labs on the mainland. Earlier this week, the DOH released results from 27 tests it took along the Navy's water line between December 7th and 9th.

**12/20/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** Today, the Navy will begin trying to clean fuel out of its drinking water system. Yesterday, the U.S. Air Force delivered several carbon filtration systems and 200-thousand pounds of carbon to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. The Navy will begin the process of flushing 25-million-gallons of contaminated water, first at the military housing neighborhood in the Pearl City Peninsula area. The Navy says filtered water will be released



through fire hydrants, and into grassy fields, sewage systems, and possibly, storm drains. If this process proves successful in Pearl City, then the Navy will repeat it near Army housing areas in Red Hill, and at the Aliamanu Military Reservation.

Elementary schools supplied by Navy water are struggling to provide students with water and food. Crates of bottled water, hand wipes, lunch replacements and late drop-offs from relocated families are the new normal for Hawaii Department of Education Schools on the Navy water supply line. The Army also halted its shuttle service between impacted areas and Waikiki Friday morning. An upcoming two-week winter break will relieve some of the strain, but the future remains uncertain.

**12/21/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** An expert believes the Navy's Red Hill fuel tanks leaked 76 times before the most recent water contamination crisis started affecting thousands of families on Oahu. At yesterday's contested case hearing about Red Hill, Doctor David Norfleet said, the last time he was called on to testify at such a hearing, he reviewed evidence that pointed to 72 prior leaks at the facility. He says, after that, there were four more fuel spills, all happening last year. Norfleet also says there's a 27-percent chance of a one-thousand to 30-thousand-gallon fuel leak happening at Red Hill annually.

**12/22/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** A two-day hearing on the future of the Navy's Red Hill fuel storage facility has come to a close. During yesterday's closing arguments, the Department of Health said by the Navy's own estimates, the tanks likely leak more than five-thousand-gallons of fuel each year. State health experts have also testified that some of the corroding 80-year-old fuel tanks haven't been inspected in 20 to 40 years. The DOH, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, and Sierra Club are pushing for the Navy to close the facility and remove the fuel, and the state has given the Navy an emergency order to do so. But, the Navy won't drain the fuel.

**12/23/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** A high-ranking Navy official is turning some heads after saying the fuel-tainted water situation is "not a crisis." Assistant Secretary of the Navy James Balocki says it's "an urgent and compelling situation perhaps," but "not a crisis." But, yesterday he did acknowledge that the Navy may have to drain one or more of its fuel tanks at Red Hill, if the probe from the Pentagon's Inspector General shows it's the right course of action. Recent testimony from the Navy and the Department of Health revealed six of the 20 tanks at Red Hill aren't holding fuel. Two are out of service and four are undergoing repairs or awaiting inspection.

The Navy confirms a fuel spill from its Red Hill storage facility in May was ten times larger than originally reported. The incident on May 6th was originally called a 16-hundred-gallon spill, but that number has been upgraded to 19-thousand-gallons. A Navy official made the revelation at this week's hearing conducted by the Department of Health. He said the contaminants released in May, coupled with a 14-thousand-gallon fuel and water spill in November, could be what sickened thousands of people and affected thousands more.

**12/28/21 – Newscast (5 min. – 5pm)** A state hearings officer is upholding the state's order calling for the Navy to drain its Red Hill fuel tanks. On December 12th, Governor Ige issued the emergency order telling the Navy to empty its tanks, and yesterday, hearings officer David Day

agreed, citing a "humanitarian and environmental disaster." Day also called the World War Two-era fuel facility "a metaphorical ticking time bomb located 100-feet above the most important aquifer on Hawaii's most populous island." His decision follows last week's two-day contested case hearing on the order. The Navy says it's aware of the "proposed" decision. It has until tomorrow to file objections, and could still fight the order in court.