

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 24, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully ask that you expeditiously approve Governor David Ige's October 26, 2020, request to extend the authorization and funding under 502(f)(2)(A) of Title 32, U.S. Code for Hawaii's COVID-19 response operations. An extension of this authorization and funding through March 31, 2021, is critical to the public health and safety of Hawaii. We also urge you to restore the 100 percent federal cost share for these missions.

The Governor's request would allow the Hawaii National Guard to continue critical and timely support across the State of Hawaii that is essential to helping the public remain safe during the pandemic. These brave soldiers and airmen are performing essential missions, such as contact tracing, operating mobile swab teams, delivering health education to at-risk communities, screening travelers, and supporting food and medical supply distribution. We also anticipate that the Hawaii National Guard will be instrumental in supporting the distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to the public.

It is critical that we avoid any disruption to the Hawaii National Guard's COVID-19 response operations. Any lapse in the authorization and funding under Title 32 would be detrimental to our pandemic response and long-term economic recovery. Your approval of this extension will give the Federal Emergency Management Agency the authority to amend the current mission assignment and release needed resources to the State of Hawaii as we continue to work to combat this virus and protect the public.

We appreciate your attention to this request and your support of the Hawaii National Guard's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ
U.S. Senator



MAZIE K. HIRONO
U.S. Senator



TULSI GABBARD
U.S. Representative



ED CASE
U.S. Representative