



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., SW.  
Washington, DC 20591

May 27, 2020

The Honorable Ed Case  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Case:

Thank you for your May 13 letter regarding the imposition of health screening requirements on all Hawai'i bound passengers and crew members prior to boarding.

Specifically you stated the desire to find a solution, "allowing the State of Hawai'i to impose reasonable public health pre-board conditions on intended passengers to Hawai'i." The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is unaware of an authority that would allow individual States to effectively institute the type of pre-boarding screening you described within the jurisdiction of another State. As you noted, the FAA has stated the agency has no authority to either grant permission or prohibit a local or State unit of government to pursue such a policy.

As previously communicated by FAA counsel, the most productive conversation may be between your office and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which is provided many authorities under the Public Health Service Act to combat the spread of communicable disease.

While the FAA does not prescribe public health rules and requirements, the agency shares your desire to see air travel return as a common manner of transportation. To that end, the FAA has consistently emphasized to air carriers that they should implement public health guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control. The U.S. Government is currently working to develop a set of public health risk mitigation measures for aviation to support the reinvigoration of healthy passenger air travel. We believe a comprehensive and consistent set of guidance to airports and airlines is the most effective and efficient way to protect travelers, crews, and the public from risks associated with COVID-19.

Thank you again for your letter. If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or the Office of Government and Industry Affairs at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Dickson". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Dickson  
Administrator