

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2020

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

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the people of Hawai'i, we are writing to thank you for the personal protective equipment your administration has already sent to Hawai'i from the strategic national stockpile. However, we urge you to support the Governor of Hawaii's March 22, 2020 request for additional equipment, supplies and resources for our state.

Hawai'i now has 77 COVID-19 cases spread across four islands with daily increases in the total number of cases. There are also growing infections in our critical military commands and forces stationed in Hawai'i, which is the home of United States Indo-Pacific Command and deployable units in all the services. Thus, the State of Hawai'i needs additional equipment from the strategic national stockpile to both protect the health of Hawaii's residents and help ensure our national security.

Like other states, Hawai'i has a limited number of intensive care unit beds and ventilators. There are only 343 intensive care beds and 544 ventilators in the State. Due to Hawaii's geographic reality as an island state, these beds and ventilators are spread out across islands, and some of these beds cannot be reached due to roadless areas and ocean geography. These geography challenges, coupled with our health care provider shortage, means that Hawai'i immediately needs the equipment requested by the Governor of Hawai'i to combat and treat COVID-19 patients.

In addition, resources and support that you can provide related to the Hawai'i National Guard is critical. We must ensure they can effectively help the State of Hawai'i support our healthcare professionals combat this virus quickly.

Thank you for your prompt attention to the State of Hawaii's request.

With aloha,

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Ed Case
Member of Congress