

Hawaii Adopts Pilot VACCINATION Passport Program for Inter-island Travel

Great news! We are slowly getting back to normal. Two weeks after the CDC updated its travel guidance to allow fully vaccinated travelers (after the 14-day waiting period) to fly without getting tested for COVID-19 or self-quarantining, Governor Ige announced that beginning May 11, 2021, fully vaccinated passengers would be allowed to fly inter-island between the Hawaiian Islands without pre-testing or quarantining. Unfortunately, only those vaccinated within Hawaii will qualify for the “vaccination passport” until the kinks are worked out. This is strictly a pilot program as Hawaii also announced that vaccinated trans-Pacific travelers will follow sometime in the Summer, and vaccinated international travelers will follow in the Fall, when herd immunity is expected. At this date, unvaccinated children over 5 and under 16 will still need to pre-test in order to travel. For now, the pre-travel testing rules and quarantine rules (without the pre-test) remain in effect for all trans-Pacific travelers.

Hawaii’s COVID-19 Vaccination Program

Almost half-way into 2021, the state has administered roughly 1.2 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. While this sounds like a lot of shots in arms, it only reflects about 37% of the state population that has been fully vaccinated. Supply is available, and currently, anyone over 16 is eligible to get a vaccine in Hawaii.

According to the CDC, Hawaii has the lowest rate of new COVID-19 cases in the nation. Today’s seven-day average case count for Oahu is 60 and the seven-day average positivity rate is 1.9%. Oahu is now in Tier 3 of a 4-tiered reopening plan - Tier 3 permits social and outdoor recreational gatherings of up to 10 non-household members, and restaurants to seat 10 people at a table. More importantly, bars have been allowed to reopen, and the 50% capacity limit has been eliminated for restaurants and retail shops.

Legislative Session 2021

The Hawaii legislative session adjourned on April 29, 2021, having been closed to the public the entire session. Hearings and testimony were all virtual. After monitoring dozens of bills that potentially impacted our business, it was a good session for us. Below are the bills that were passed and sent to the Governor for signature:

HB58 HD1 SD1 CD1 (General Excise Tax; Use Tax; Conveyance Tax). From 1/1/2022 through 12/31/2023, certain general excise and use tax exemptions will be suspended. The bill also increases conveyance taxes for the sale of non-commercial properties valued at \$4,000,000 or greater.

HB136 HD1 SD1 (Relating to Liquor Licenses). This measure removes inconsistencies regarding changes in the principals of the entity holding the liquor license and allows limited liability companies to be treated the same as a corporation.

HB552 HD1 SD2 CD1 (Clean Ground Transportation Goals; Fleet Procurement). Establishes clean ground transportation goals for state agencies to achieve one hundred percent of light-duty motor vehicles that are passenger cars to be zero-emission vehicles by December 31, 2030, and one hundred per cent of non-passenger light-duty motor vehicle fleet to be zero-emission by December 31, 2035.

HB1041 HD1 SD1 (Relating to Conformity to the Internal Revenue Code). Conforms Hawaii income and estate and generation-skipping transfer tax laws to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended as of 12/31/2020.

HB1142 HD2 SD2 CD1 (Electric Vehicle Charging System Rebate Program; Electric Vehicle Charging Systems; Electric Vehicle Parking Spaces; Enforcement; Appropriation). Allocates three cents of the state barrel tax to fund the installation of EV charging systems. Establishes an EV Charging System subaccount in the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) special fund. Appropriates funds out of the PUC special fund for the EV charging system rebate program. Authorizes each county to adopt ordinances to enforce.

HB1296 HD1 SD2 CD1 (Hawaii Tobacco Settlement Special Fund; Hawaii Tobacco Prevention and Control Trust Fund; Repeal; Emergency Appropriation; Governor; Cigarette Taxes; UH; Threat Assessment Team Program; DHRD; Positions; Appropriation). This bill basically repeals the existing Hawaii tobacco prevention and control trust fund and transfers unencumbered balances to the

general fund on 6/30/2025. Despite strong opposition by the DOH and other stakeholders like the American Heart Association, this bill was passed - clearly a money grab for the State. It remains to be seen whether the governor will sign or veto the money grab.

There was also one bill that was adopted and signed into law

on March 2nd: **HB1278 HD1** (State Employer's Unemployment Insurance Rate) temporarily reduces unemployment insurance contribution rates for employers – rates that would have more than quadrupled for most employers since the State was required to pay out unemployment benefits at unprecedented rates due to COVID-19.

The climate change bills we were following turned into a climate change concurrent resolution, without the effect of law, which is a good result for us. **SCR44 SD1 HD1** (Climate Emergency; Statewide Collaboration; Greenhouse Gases) which declares a climate emergency, and requests statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate.

HPMA GOLF TOURNAMENT At OAHU COUNTRY CLUB

A Huge Success!

Despite wet conditions at Oahu Country Club, the HPMA golf tournament was held on **March 15, 2021**, and was a huge success. The 19th hole was a bigger success, with lots of great prizes, food and drinks. Even after expenses, we had a record year which helps support the WPMA Scholarship Foundation, the EMA SBC PAC Fund, and HPMA.

Tournament winners

Amazing, but true! The golf tournament ended with a 3-way tie for 1st place at 7 under par (64)! By matching team scorecards, and using the scores of the highest handicap holes as a tie-breaker, here were the winning teams:

1st place (*Team GP Energy*): Joe Lovan, Lindsay Shinall, Kevin Kinerney and Michael MacDonald

2nd place (*Team Neil Nakai*): Neil Nakai, Travis Niimi, Kyong Chang and Keola Gerell

Men's Long Drive: Kimo Haynes **Ladies' Long Drive:** Kathy Laderman

Closest to the Pins: #4 Kevin Kinerney, #7 Gordon Wong, #9 Keola Gerell, #11 Travis Niimi, #16 Pomakai Shishido

In closing, I would like to thank all the players and sponsors who supported the HPMA Golf Tournament in March.

Lunch sponsors: Hawaii Petroleum Inc., Par Hawaii, Northwest Pump, and Hansen Distribution, Inc.

Reception Sponsor: Aloha Petroleum, Ltd.

Beverage sponsors: Aloha Petroleum, Ltd., Island Energy, WPMA and Invenco.

Hole Sponsors: Island Energy (2 hole sponsor), GP Energy Company, and Exosent Engineering.

Prize Sponsors: WPMA, Paradise Beverages, and Anheuser-Busch of Hawaii.