June 16, 2020

COMPTROLLER’S MEMORANDUM NO. 2020-13

TO: Department Heads

FROM: Curt T. Otaguro, Comptroller

SUBJECT: Updated Travel Policy Relating to COVID-19

Comptroller’s Memorandum No. 2020-13 supersedes Comptroller’s Memorandum No. 2020-09 issued on May 22, 2020. This memorandum provides guidance for travel by State employees during the emergency period set by Governor David Ige due to the COVID-19 crisis. All State travel (international, domestic, and inter-island) has been suspended until further notice unless approved by your department director. Exceptions to this policy must justify why travel is essential to the State and must receive the concurrence of the Comptroller.

Governor Ige mandated a “Stay-at-Home, Work-from-Home” order, effective March 25, 2020. A mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for all individuals arriving from outside the State of Hawaii became effective at 12:01 AM on March 26, 2020 in the Second Supplementary Proclamation. Another mandatory 14-day self-quarantine for individuals traveling inter-island became effective at 12:01 AM on April 1, 2020 in the Fourth Supplementary Proclamation. These quarantine requirements were extended by subsequent supplementary proclamations through June 30, 2020. However, the Ninth Supplementary Proclamation signed on June 10, 2020 suspends the 14-day travel quarantine for all interisland travel effective 12:01 AM on June 16, 2020. The Ninth Supplementary Proclamation also changed the travel quarantine requirement for returning Hawaii residents who are critical infrastructure sector workers.

State employees who travel for personal reasons to domestic (US) and international destinations and return to Hawaii are still subject to the 14-day mandatory self-quarantine. However, State employees who travel for personal reasons and who are critical infrastructure sector workers (as listed in Exhibit B to the Ninth Supplementary Proclamation) may be allowed to break self-quarantine to go to work and perform necessary functions for their work. Such employees should request a limited exemption from covidexemption@hawaii.gov which will allow them to go to work upon return to Hawaii.
State employees who are approved by their department head and the Comptroller for work-related domestic and international travel also are subject to the 14-day self-quarantine requirement, but may break quarantine to go to work and to perform necessary functions for their work. Such employees should carry their approved State travel documents and a copy of this Comptroller’s Memorandum with them while traveling to show to airport screeners. They should also carry the aforementioned documents with them while traveling between their residence and their workplace to show their limited exemption from the quarantine requirement. They do not need to request a limited exemption from covidexemption@hawaii.gov provided that they have their approved State travel documents and a copy of this Comptroller’s Memorandum.

These actions will help keep the curve flattened and lay the groundwork for a quicker recovery. We need everyone to comply with these quarantine orders to help protect everyone in the State of Hawaii. Direct questions to Comptroller’s Office at (808) 586-0400 or Department of Human Resources Development at (808) 587-1100.