



**PACIFIC BASIN
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

1601 East-West Road, Burns Hall, Room 4068, Honolulu, HI 96848
www.pacificbasindevelopment.org

Guam • American Samoa • Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands • Hawaii

**COVID-19 HELP FOR SMALL BUSINESSES,
NON-PROFITS, VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS, AND
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS**

I. General Resources

Small Business Administration - Hawaii District Office

Phone: (808) 541-2990

Email: hawaiigeneral@sba.gov

Website: <https://www.sba.gov/offices/district/hi/honolulu>

Hawaii Small Business Development Center – Oahu Center

Phone: (808) 945-1430

Email: joseph.burns@hisbdc.org

Web Site: <http://www.hisbdc.org>

Patsy Mink Women’s Business Development Center

Phone: (808) 695-2635

Email: mcbl@ywcaoahu.org

Website: <https://www.mcblhawaii.org>

Liliu’okalani Trust

Phone: (808) 203-6150

Email: covid19sbasupport@onipaa.org

Website: <https://onipaa.org>

Hawaii Alliance of Non-Profit Organizations (HANO)

Phone: (808) 529-0466

Email: info@hano-hawaii.org

Website: <https://hano-hawaii.org/covid-19/>

Free SBA Loan Assistance: <https://hano-hawaii.org/covid-19/#technical-assistance>

Veterans Business Centers

Phone: (808) 988-1236

Email: vboc@hawaii.edu

Website: <https://hilo.hawaii.edu/vboc>

For further information, please contact Esther Kia‘āina, Executive Director of the Pacific Basin Development Council, at esther@pacificbasindevelopment.org or (808) 233-9741.

Hawaii Minority Business Development Agency

Phone: (808) 956-0850

Website: <https://www.mbda.gov/businesscenters/honolulu>

SCORE Hawaii

Phone: (808) 547-2700

Email: Inquiry form available on website.

Website: <https://hawaii.score.org>

II. Congressional Resources and Federal Grants

1. Contact Congress to Affect COVID-19 Aid

A. Policy

- You can propose future solutions or identify any gaps in current COVID-19 federal efforts, including the CARES Act, and notify the Hawaii Congressional Delegation.

B. Funding

- You can affect the FY 2021 Appropriations Process, and possibly ask for the redirect of federal funding for specific COVID-19 initiatives with the Hawaii Congressional delegation.
- If you are a current federal grantee, you may ask for flexibility from your awarding agency, including the redirect of current funds to align with COVID-19 specified initiatives. Contact your Hawaii Congressional delegation if you need help on this or future support letters.

2. Additional Help You Can Seek from Hawaii Congressional Delegation

- A. **Casework** – if you need help with navigating a program in a federal agency;
- B. **Policy Issue** – you can convey your support or non-support for a certain issue, including the kind of assistance needed in a CARES-2 Act;

C. **Federal Funding** – you can ask them for

- A letter of support for a federal grant application (<https://www.grants.gov>);
- Request program funding during the annual Congressional appropriations process.

NOTE: While the deadline has passed for FY 2021 appropriations requests, that deadline was set before the COVID-19 pandemic, and they may be reconsidering the budget for next year; and

D. **Federal Information Sharing** – they can update you on important issues or programs or you can also ask them to get further information for you on a federal issue. For example, all of them have COVID-19 Web pages.

U.S. Senator Brian Schatz

<https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus> (COVID-19 Page)
<https://www.schatz.senate.gov/contact> (How to Contact the Senator)

U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono

<https://www.hirono.senate.gov/information-and-resources-about-coronavirus>
(COVID-19 Page)
<https://www.hirono.senate.gov/contact> (How to Contact Senator)

U.S. Congressman Ed Case

<https://case.house.gov/coronavirus/> (COVID-19 Page)
<https://case.house.gov/contact/> (How to Contact Congressman)

U.S. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard

<https://gabbard.house.gov/covid-19-response-information-and-resources>
(COVID-19 Page)
<https://gabbard.house.gov/connect> (How to Contact Congresswoman)

Recommendation: Sign up for e-newsletters from the Hawaii Congressional Delegation Members to have COVID updates sent to your email.

3. Assistance from Congressional Leaders

Congress is already talking about a CARES-2 act. Contact the national leadership via email and let them know what you need for your business/non-profit/organization to pull through this pandemic and continue long term operations.

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi

<https://www.speaker.gov/>

Republican Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy

<https://www.republicanleader.gov/>

Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, Mitch McConnell

<https://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/>

Democratic Leader of the U.S. Senate, Charles Schumer

<https://www.schumer.senate.gov/>

4. Apply for a Federal Grant and/or Revise Existing Grants

- A. Current grantees should contact the federal awarding agency to touch bases about any flexibility or extensions of the administration of your current grant, including any discretion to reprogram funds.
- B. Federal grants are available for a variety of non-profit organizations and specialized for-profit businesses. Research the availability of federal assistance and their deadlines at:
 - <https://www.grants.gov> for organizations and
 - <https://www.benefits.gov> for individuals.

III. Unemployment Resources

1. Unemployment for Employees

- A. \$600 Increase - There will be an additional \$600 each week for state-paid unemployment compensation for those who already qualify (Section 2104). That is an additional \$2400 a month. With the current maximum weekly benefit of \$648 per week, the total amount that an individual could get is \$1248 a week or \$4,992 a month.
- B. Extension – There is an extension of unemployment compensation by 13 weeks beyond the eligibility time states provide under current law (Section 2107). So instead of the normal 26 weeks, the duration of unemployment coverage will extend for 39 weeks.

2. Unemployment for Employers, Independent Contractors, "Gig" Workers

Pandemic Unemployment Assistance – A temporary pandemic unemployment assistance program was established under the CARES Act which matches the normal state unemployment rate plus \$600 for unemployed workers who would not normally be eligible (Section 2102). <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/eta/eta20200405>

These unemployment benefits are extended to self-employed workers, independent contractors, and those with limited work history for up to 39 weeks of employment through the end of 2020, fully funded by the federal government.

For further information, please go to Hawaii's Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) at: <https://labor.hawaii.gov/> or to file claims at: <https://huiclaims.hawaii.gov/#/>

Because the DLIR closed its office to walk in service, if you have questions, please call:

(808) 762-5752
(833) 901-2252
(833) 901-2275

Claims Offices:

Oahu (808) 586-8970
Hilo (808) 974-4086
Kona (808) 322-4822
Maui (808) 984-8400
Kauai (808) 274-3043

IV. Agricultural Resources

1. U.S. Department of Agriculture

A. General Updates: <https://www.usda.gov/coronavirus>

B. Resource Guide:

https://www.rd.usda.gov/sites/default/files/USDA_COVID-19_Fed_Rural_Resource_Guide.pdf

2. U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/coronavirus>

3. U.S. Senator Brian Schatz

<https://www.schatz.senate.gov/coronavirus/agriculture>

4. Hawai`i Farmer's Bureau

<http://covid19.hfbf.org/>

5. Hawai`i Department of Agriculture

A. **Agriculture Loan Division:** <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/agl/>