

GRASSROOT INSTITUTE OF HAWAII

August 24, 2020

The Honorable David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawaii
Executive Chambers, State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Aloha, Gov. David Ige,

In response to the [news](#) that your office has declined The Associated Press' open records request for communications between your staff and various organizations, I want to strongly encourage you to reconsider. At a time when Hawaii residents need more transparency from their leaders, the state is going in the wrong direction.

There is a reason that the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii was [one of the first](#) to call out the wrongful suspension of the state's transparency laws early-on in the lockdown.

Hawaii was the only state in the country to take such an extreme position, and it was clear that the move would undermine the principles of government openness and accountability. Now we are seeing how justified those concerns were.

Hawaii's residents are entitled to know more about the decision-making process behind the government's coronavirus response. The lack of transparency from the governor's office is eroding public trust in the management of the pandemic.

If the state was more open about the data and decision-making process behind the government's COVID response, it would be easier for the public to evaluate the efficacy of those measures.

We call on your office to prioritize responding to the AP's records request in full. The people of Hawaii deserve to know.

Mahalo for your time, and aloha!



Keli'i Akina, Ph.D.
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