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SCMF-20-0000152

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

In the Matter of the Judiciary’s Response
to the COVID-19 Outbreak

ORDER REGARDING JUDICIARY OPERATIONS
(By: Recktenwald, C.J.)

On March 4, 2020, Governor David Ige declared a state of emergency in Hawai‘i in response to the public health threat posed by COVID-19, and subsequently issued over twenty proclamations mandating statewide safety measures in an effort to curb the spread of the disease. The Judiciary has responded to COVID-19 by postponing matters if necessary, moving proceedings to a remote format as feasible, and adjusting in-person operations to protect court users and Judiciary personnel. The chief judges of each circuit have also issued circuit-specific emergency orders adjusting operations based on the public health circumstances in their respective circuits.

The health and safety of court users and Judiciary personnel has always been paramount during this unprecedented pandemic, and the Judiciary responded to the fluctuating and evolving conditions by adjusting operations as necessary.

It has been reported that in the past few months, the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have continued to decline nationwide, including in Hawai'i. As a result, most states are easing COVID-19 restrictions. According to Governor Ige, on March 26, 2022, the state of emergency will end in Hawai'i and much of the COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted. In light of Governor Ige's announcement, adjustments to Judiciary operations are necessary and must take into consideration the circumstances and situations in each circuit to continue to protect the health and safety of court users and Judiciary personnel. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, effective March 26, 2022, that:

Orders to be Rescinded

The following orders are rescinded:

- (1) The "Sixth Amended Order Regarding Entering Judiciary Facilities" (filed January 4, 2022); and
- (2) The "First Amended Order Regarding Requirements for Attorneys Entering Judiciary Facilities" (filed January 4, 2022).

Circuit Specific Orders

The chief judges of each circuit, including myself for the Supreme Court and Chief Judge Ginoza for the Intermediate Court of Appeals, shall implement plans for our respective Judiciary buildings or areas as deemed appropriate.

Dated: Honolulu, Hawai'i, March 21, 2022.

/s/ Mark E. Recktenwald
Chief Justice

