

BRIAN SCHATZ
HAWAII

United States Senate

HART BUILDING
SUITE SH-722
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1105
(202) 224-3934
300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD
ROOM 7-212
HONOLULU, HI 96850
(808) 523-2061

December 17, 2021

Philip Bossert
Executive Director
Hawaii Association of Independent Schools
200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 401
Honolulu, HI 96817

Dear Dr. Bossert:

I write to make you aware of new “test-to-stay” (TTS) guidance released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for K-12 schools. I encourage the Hawaii Association of Independent Schools to work with your member schools to adopt TTS policies as appropriate and feasible, and to work with the Hawaii Department of Health in providing TTS guidance to your member schools.

TTS policies will allow students to stay in school even if they are exposed to COVID-19, thereby minimizing the number of days students would otherwise miss and helping to reduce the learning loss that can occur during traditional quarantine at home. As the CDC notes, specific TTS policies may vary, but they follow the same principles: a combination of vaccination of eligible students and staff, frequent testing, contact tracing, masking inside schools, distancing between students, ventilation, handwashing, and staying home when sick. Taken together, exposed students can remain in school in lieu of quarantining at home. Initial data from case studies show that schools with TTS policies have similar transmission rates as non-TTS schools.

The CDC’s science brief with the recent TTS updates can be found here:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/transmission_k_12_schools.html.

The CDC’s guidance on COVID-19 testing in schools can be found here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/what-you-should-know.html>.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and your collaboration during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



BRIAN SCHATZ
United States Senator