



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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### **Hawaii Attorney General Supports Equitable Coronavirus Relief Funding for the District of Columbia**

HONOLULU – Attorney General Clare E. Connors today joined 35 attorneys general in sending a letter to President Trump and House and Senate leaders today expressing concern over the proposed allocation of funding for the District of Columbia in the Coronavirus Relief Fund passed by the Senate on March 26.

“Ensuring that the District of Columbia receives proper federal support is both necessary and the right thing to do,” said Attorney General Clare E. Connors. “DC, like every state, needs resources to fight this pandemic. It has a large population, and as the center of our federal government, it must be taken care of in the same manner as the states.”

The current relief package allocates at least \$1.25 billion in direct payments to every state but allocates only \$500 million to the District by classifying it as a territory. The attorneys general urge the federal government to ensure that the District government, along with all 50 states, receives the minimum allocation of \$1.25 billion.

The District has nearly 200 confirmed coronavirus cases, which outpaces nearly two dozen states and territories. In addition, two states with smaller populations than the District will receive more than twice as much funding as the District in the current relief package. In the letter, the attorneys general insist that the District must be treated as any other state and that shortchanging D.C. by at least \$750 million is likely to exacerbate the COVID-19 crisis and will harm the D.C. Attorney General’s ability to enforce critical emergency response measures, such as limitations on business operations, price gouging prohibitions, and other protections for District residents.

The letter reads, in part, “The District’s contributions to the federal government are unique and substantial. The District is the seat of the federal government and is thus obligated to protect the health and safety of hundreds of thousands of federal workers. Moreover, District residents pay the full panoply of federal taxes. Indeed, District

residents contribute more to the federal government on a per capita basis than residents of any other state or territory. At bottom, the need in the District and the contribution of its residents to the federal fisc are significant. It is critical that the District receive the funding it needs to ensure adequate services to residents and businesses.”

In addition to the District of Columbia and Hawaii, the letter was signed by Alaska, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Guam, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

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