

General Guidelines for Jury Trials Commencing as of August 3, 2020

Pursuant to this Court's June 1, 2020 Temporary General Order Regarding District of Hawaii Response to COVID-19 Emergency, the district judges have determined that, given the size of the district court's fourth floor courtrooms, and the need for parties, counsel, paralegals, interpreters, court staff and jurors to maintain the required six-foot social distancing throughout any trial, certain multi-plaintiff or multi-defendant cases cannot be conducted safely. Until further notice and in the interest of safety, the Court will thus limit the number of counsel and parties that can be in a courtroom during a trial. At this time, the Court is not establishing specific guidelines as to the type of cases that can and cannot be tried. Instead, each case will be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the number of participants involved and any other relevant considerations.

Further, until the Court is able to determine if multiple trials can safely be conducted simultaneously, only one trial will be held at a time. Priority may be given to trials estimated to last two weeks or shorter to permit the maximum number of trials.

Each trial will require the use of a detailed juror questionnaire to, in part, assess prospective jurors' availability in light of the current pandemic. The questionnaire must be sent to prospective jurors no later than approximately five weeks prior to the scheduled trial date. In order to accommodate this schedule, the

Court will hold a status conference for each scheduled trial approximately seven weeks prior to the trial date. Counsel are expected to be prepared to discuss whether the matter will be resolved without a trial, whether counsel will request a continuance, or whether counsel will be prepared for trial as scheduled.