

Aloha,

I have received various calls asking for clarification on the reason for the new pandemic restrictions regarding funerals that I sent yesterday. On Governor Ige's 14<sup>th</sup> Proclamation, Exhibit H (RULES RELATING TO MORTUARIES, CEMETERIES, EMBALMERS, UNDERTAKERS AND MORTUARY AUTHORITIES) signed on October 13, 2020, he explains the purpose for the change:

*§1 Purpose and Authority.*

*These rules are adopted pursuant to section 127A-12, 13, 25, 29, and 31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to respond to the COVID-19 emergency declared by the Governor and have the full force and effect of law. The following **are necessary to enable the Department of Health to effectively prohibit gatherings** to view a decedent's body outside of mortuaries and cemeteries governed by Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 22. To the extent anything in these rules conflicts with Title 11, Chapter 22, these rules shall control during the emergency period.*

*§2 Prohibition on transporting a body to residences and other places.*

*Any cemetery, cemetery authority, mortuary, mortuary authority, or person engaged in the provision of funeral services or who embalms bodies is prohibited from **transporting a body to a residence or any other location**, unless it is the location of burial authorized by law.*

Here is the link for the entire proclamation:

[https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2010095-ATG\\_Fourteenth-Proclamation-for-COVID-19-distribution-signed.pdf](https://governor.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2010095-ATG_Fourteenth-Proclamation-for-COVID-19-distribution-signed.pdf)

I hope this bring some clarification.

Peace!

**Deacon Modesto R. Cordero**

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**From:** Cordero, Dcn. Modesto

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 5:18 PM

**Subject:** New pandemic restrictions regarding Funerals

Aloha,

Governor David Y. Ige's latest FOURTEENTH PROCLAMATION RELATED TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY signed on October 13, 2020 (Exhibit H) directs "*any cemetery, cemetery authority, mortuary, mortuary authority, or person engaged in the provision of funeral services or who embalms bodies is prohibited from transporting a body to a residence or **any other location**, unless it is the location of burial authorized by law.*" Therefore, effective immediately and until further notice, all Funeral Masses in the presence of a body (casket) in the state of Hawaii are to be postponed OR celebrated without the presence of the body.

Our clergy can still offer the Vigil for the Deceased and/or a Funeral Liturgy outside Mass at the mortuary/funeral home, or a Committal Service at the cemetery. As an exception during this time, a Funeral Mass at church in the presence of an Urn or without the presence of the body may still be celebrated before the Committal. In that case, the body should be blessed with holy water at the cemetery, and the Final Commendation and Farewell should be included in the Committal Service (See Order of Christian Funerals, Chapter 6.)

For any additional information contact my office.

Peace!

*Deacon Modesto R. Cordero*

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