



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DOH REPORTS TRAVEL-RELATED DENGUE VIRUS CASE ON O'AHU

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HONOLULU — The Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) has identified a new travel-related dengue virus case on O'ahu, bringing the number of total cases to 12 identified in the state in 2024 (one on Kaua'i, three on Maui, eight on O'ahu). The affected travelers were exposed in various countries where dengue is common.

DOH teams were deployed for inspection and mosquito control in the affected area. The community is asked to help reduce the risk for any local transmission by exercising best practices described below.

Dengue virus is spread from infected person to mosquito to person. While Hawai'i is home to the type of mosquitoes that can carry dengue, the disease is not endemic (established) here in the state and cases are currently only seen in travelers. Multiple regions around the world are currently experiencing higher-than-normal dengue activity.

Dengue outbreaks do occur in many parts of the world including Central and South America, Asia (including the Republic of the Philippines), the Middle East and Africa, as well as some Pacific Islands including the U.S. territories of American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau, as well as many popular tourist destinations in the Caribbean (including Puerto Rico).

Anyone who plans to travel or has traveled to an area with dengue is at risk for infection. Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) advises travelers to practice usual precautions when traveling to areas of dengue risk. This includes using an Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#))-registered insect repellent, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants when outdoors, and sleeping in an air-conditioned room, a room with window screens or under an [insecticide-treated bed net](#). Some countries are reporting increased numbers of cases, so it is important four to six weeks before you travel, to review [country-specific travel information](#) for the most up-to-date guidance on dengue risk and prevention measures for that country. Travelers returning from an [area with risk of dengue](#) should take steps to [prevent mosquito bites](#) for three weeks, and if symptoms of dengue develop within two weeks upon return, should seek medical evaluation.

Symptoms of dengue typically may be mild or severe and include fever, nausea, vomiting, rash and body aches. Symptoms typically last two to seven days and although severe and even life-threatening illness can occur, most people recover after about a week. If you have traveled recently and are experiencing these symptoms, please seek medical advice from a health care provider.

In areas of suspected or confirmed dengue, Hawai'i DOH personnel (Vector Control Branch) conduct inspections and mosquito-reducing activities. Reducing mosquito populations reduces the chances of dengue being transmitted to other people. In areas without reported dengue cases, eliminating mosquito breeding sites in and around your home is a good practice.

In anticipation of the forecast Tropical Storm Hone, DOH advises everyone to eliminate vessels which may collect rainwater from areas around their homes and businesses. Additionally, remove standing water from any containers, pots, plants or tarps after the storm.

Mosquitoes only need small amounts of standing water to breed. Common breeding sites at home include buckets, water-catching plants (such as bromeliads), small containers, planters, rain barrels, or even cups left outside. Simply pouring out containers of standing water eliminates the potential for mosquito breeding.

For more information, please visit the [Disease Outbreak Control Division \(DOCD\) website](#) and [Vector Control Branch \(VCB\) website](#).

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Media Contact:

Kristen Wong
Information Specialist
Hawai'i State Department of Health
Kristen.Wong@doh.hawaii.gov
808-586-4407