

PUC Development Plan – COVID Recovery Survey: Summary Notes

Overview

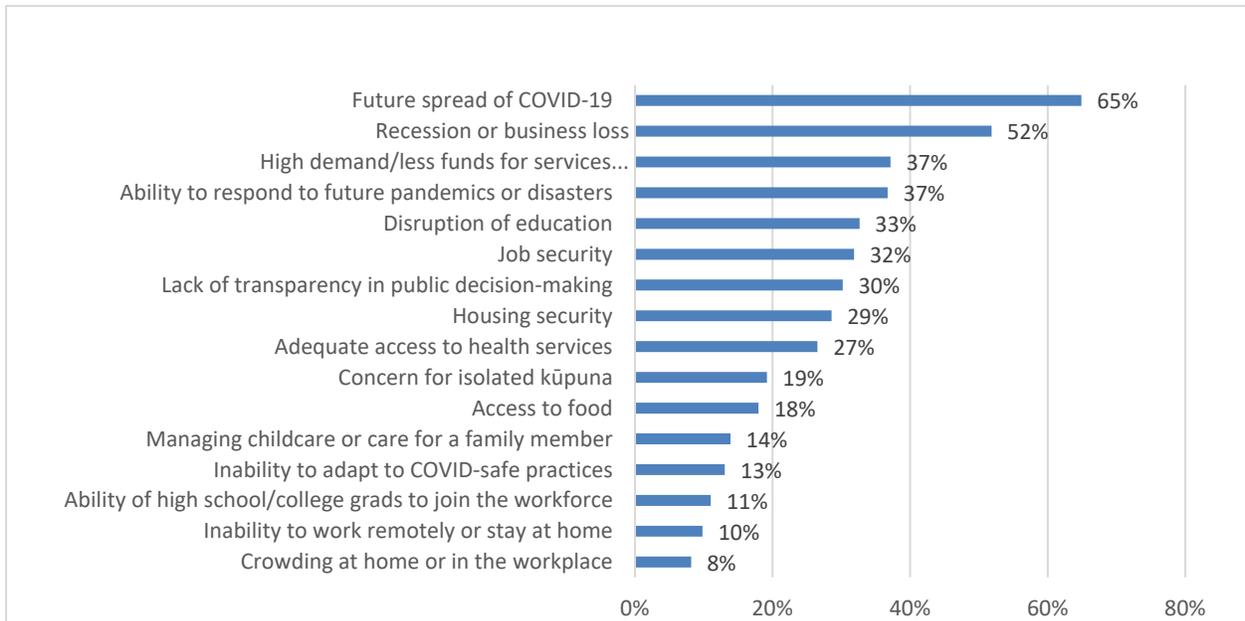
As part of the comprehensive update to the Primary Urban Center Development Plan (PUC DP) that spans from Wai‘ālae-Kāhala to Pearl City, the DPP administered an online survey in July 2020 to solicit community feedback on the COVID-19 crisis and its implications for the community. Approximately 250 respondents answered questions on key issues, concerns, and recovery opportunities for the Primary Urban Center. The results here are from a self-selected (non-scientific) survey sent out to the PUC DP community mailing list and posted online on the project website. The goal was to provide a forum for sharing public concerns on issues related to the ongoing pandemic with a focus on the PUC and how residents and businesses might effectively recover from the pandemic.

Concerns about the Future

Question #1

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, what concerns you most now?

Survey Results



Key Takeaways

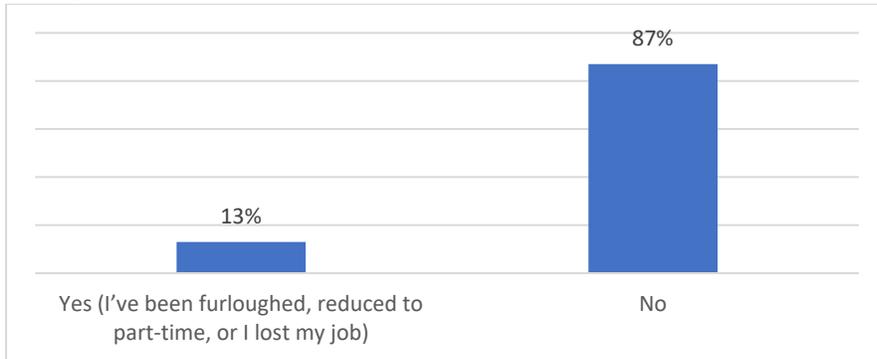
- ✚ ✚ The **future spread of COVID-19** and a **potential economic recession** were the biggest concerns shared.
- ✚ Respondents also voiced concerned with **disruptions to education**, public and private sector **services**, and a **lack of preparedness** for future pandemics or disasters.

Employment

Question #2

Has your employment status changed during the pandemic?

Survey Results



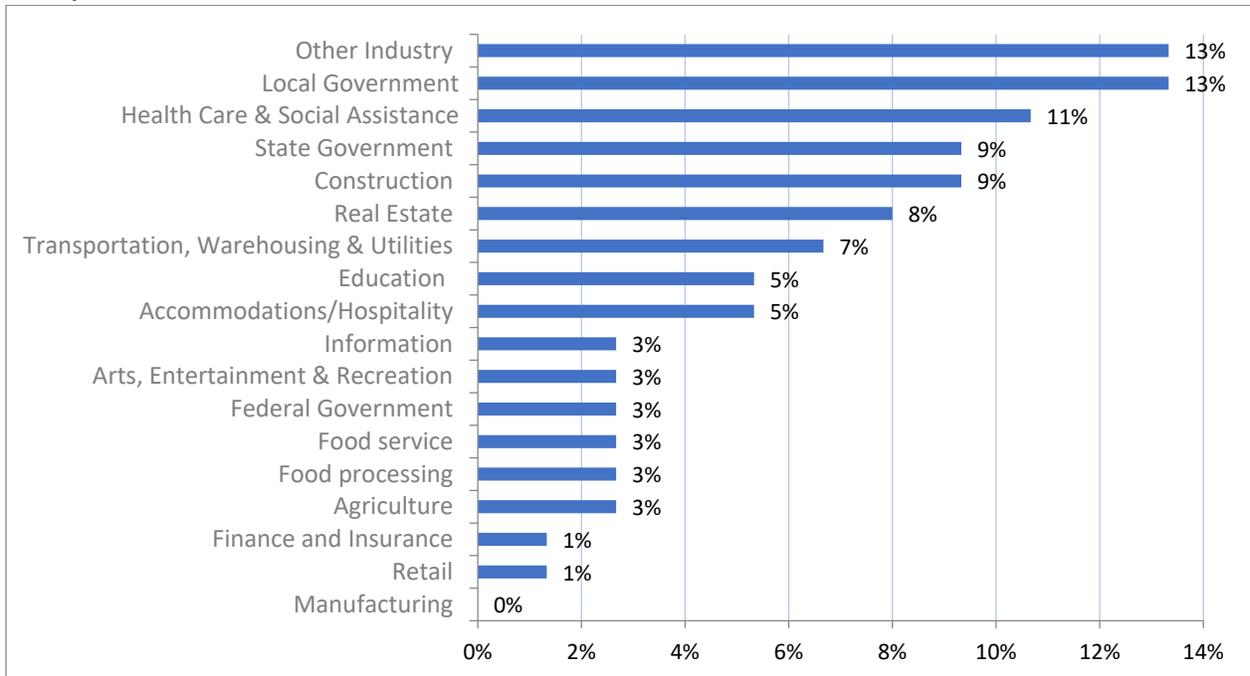
Key Takeaways

- About 1 in 7 respondents have seen their employment status change during the pandemic.

Question #3

If yes, in what industry are you employed/most recently employed?

Survey Results



Key Takeaways

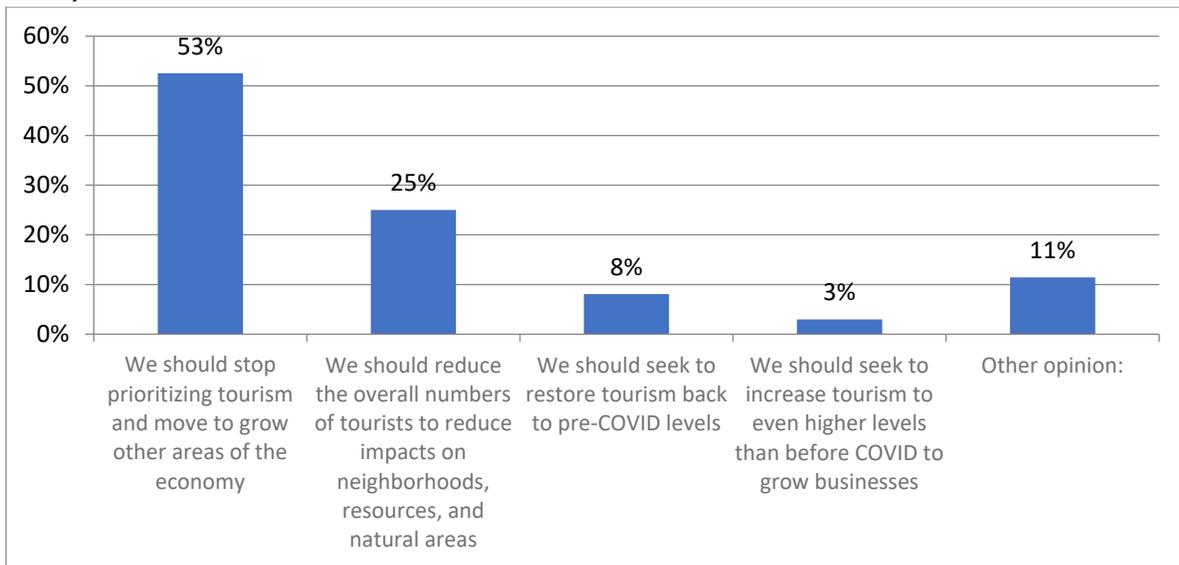
- Job losses among respondents were most pronounced in the **government, construction, and social assistance sectors**. Perhaps surprisingly, there was only one reported layoff in retail among respondents.

Tourism + Economic Development

Question 4

Is it time to reassess the scale and impacts of tourism in the PUC?

Survey Results



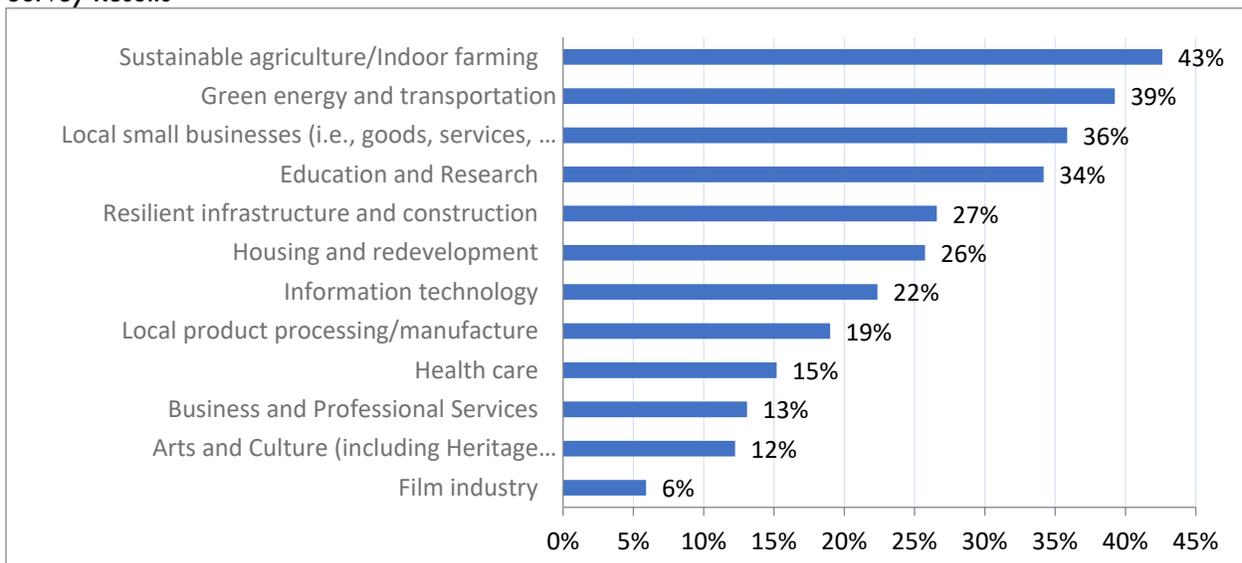
Key Takeaways

- ++ Three-quarters of respondents felt that the PUC should shift emphasis away from **tourism**; half endorsed the idea of **prioritizing other economic sectors** as well, and one-quarter favored seeking fewer tourists to **lessen impacts** on neighborhoods, resources, and natural areas.
- + Some respondents suggested a tourism **focus on sustainability/eco-tourism**.

Question #5

What are the top 3 industries you would like to see more of in the PUC?

Survey Results



Key Takeaways

- + + Respondents primarily want to see growth in **sustainable agriculture, green energy, small business, and education/research.**
- + **Housing development, infrastructure, and information technology** were also cited as important. There was very minimal support among respondents for the film industry.

Question #6

Which of the following do you favor to encourage the recovery and expansion of the local food economy in the PUC?

Survey Results

More farmer's markets and community supported agriculture (CSA) programs	56.4%
Encourage and standardize procurement practices for public and private institutions that prioritize local food purchasing	49.1%
Encouraging vertical farming in light industrial areas	48.7%
Incorporating local products stands into public facilities where possible (i.e., HART rail station areas, event venues, etc.)	44.1%
More community gardens	36.0%
More opportunities for outdoor dining	35.6%
Stronger relationships between agricultural programs at colleges and community organizations	32.6%
Increasing food trucks, night markets, and other street food	27.9%
More small grocers in neighborhoods	27.1%
Shared food processing facilities for small businesses	25.9%
Shared kitchen facilities for small businesses	23.7%
More community cooking classes	6.4%
More full-service grocery stores	5.9%
Other:	7.2%

Key Takeaways

- + + Respondents prioritize **farmers' markets, community supported agriculture (CSA) programs, and vertical farming** in light industrial areas.
- + Respondents also want public and private institutions to **prioritize local food purchasing.**

Housing

Question #7

What actions are most needed to alleviate housing shortfalls and improve housing conditions?

Survey Results

Expect more affordable housing units as a community benefit from new development	49.6%
Increase enforcement of unlicensed vacation rentals	48.2%
Look for more opportunities to build supportive housing and services for homeless populations	41.9%
Vacancy fee on empty apartments and houses to raise funds to build affordable housing	41.9%

Reduce required parking to provide more living units and/or lower housing costs	34.7%
Partner with the state to deliver more public low-income housing	33.3%
Increase expediting or automating permits	32.9%
Incentives to improve the condition of existing multi-family housing stock	28.8%
Increase multi-family housing areas through zoning changes	24.8%
More incentives for energy efficiency for multi-family housing (including affordable housing and public housing)	24.3%
Increase city loan/grant programming for security deposit and down payments	23.4%
More incentives and information on home modification for seniors aging in place	20.7%
Spend more housing resources on other special need families, such as physically and mentally disabled populations	9.5%
Other action:	15.8%

Key Takeaways

- To address housing shortfalls, respondents want to require **more affordable housing as community benefits**, increase **enforcement of unlicensed vacation rentals**, and consider a **vacancy fee**.

Transportation

Question #13

As a result of the pandemic, what changes would you like to see for our transportation system?

Survey Results

Staggered and flexible work and college schedules (allows more distancing while reducing congestion on the roads)	77.9%
Invest more heavily in separated-lane bicycle facilities and other bicycle infrastructure	52.5%
Widen sidewalks whenever possible	48.9%
Provide opt-in incentive programs for employers and schools to reduce personal public transportation costs	46.1%
Creating select pedestrian and bicycle-only streets near to public transit	45.6%
Dedicated bus lanes to shorten travel times	40.6%
Improve quality of bus stops (lighting, shade, seating) to allow for greater physical distancing	40.1%
Increase frequency of buses on high-traffic routes, even if bus fares were increased	29.5%
Consider open-air buses as part of the public transportation fleet	29.0%
Explore other modes of micro-mobility such as electric scooters	21.2%
Other changes:	15.2%

Key Takeaways

- +** **+** Respondents overwhelmingly prioritize creating **flexible work/class schedules** to reduce traffic.
- +** Other efforts supported by respondents **include separated bike lanes, widened sidewalks**, and increased support of **employer incentive programs** to reduce transportation cost burden. Micro-mobility choices were not popular among respondents.

Economic Recovery

Question #14 (write-in)

How can the city further support recovery for residents?

Key Takeaways

- Build up testing capacity and quarantine strategies for incoming visitors. Social distancing protocols (e.g., mask wearing) also need to be enforced.
- Implement eviction protections.

Question #15 (write-in)

How can the city further support recovery for small businesses?

Key Takeaways

- Reduce burden on businesses through the provision of low-interest loans, tax exemptions, grant funding, and rent subsidies, among others.
- Allow safe and measured re-opening of businesses that still respects social distancing protocols.
- Strong support for expanded outdoor dining.