



The Senate

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Hawai'i Island's International Flight Training Center Prepares for Take-Off (*International Flight Training Center & Hawai'i Health Systems Corp. Bills Become Law*)

Honolulu- Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui signed into law today a measure foundational to the future implementation of an international flight training center on the Island of Hawai'i.

[Senate Bill 1221](#) appropriates \$100,000 to hire a program coordinator and a technical support staff member for an international flight training center and associated aeronautical training programs at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Hawai'i Community College.

"Hawai'i Island and in particular Hilo has everything you need to support a world class aviation university program," said Senator Gilbert Kahele, who represents District 1 (Hilo) and was one of the bill's primary introducers. "Today's investment by the State creates the initial foundation for a program that will create additional opportunities in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics for our local youth and students in the Asia-Pacific region. I commend the Abercrombie administration for their support and commitment to this important investment in Hawai'i's future."

The Lieutenant Governor also enacted a measure to address the State's primary care physician shortage.

[House Bill 417](#), relating to the Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation, appropriates \$1,800,000 for the interdisciplinary Hawai'i Health Systems Corporation Primary Care Training Program at Hilo Medical Center.

"The measure provides an innovative approach to resolving the severe shortage of healthcare providers that the State continues to face," said Kahele. "The success of this statewide training program, administered by Hilo Medical Center, will help the State to meet the needs of our rural area residents by generating interdisciplinary teams capable of caring for four times as many patients as independent practicing physicians and eliminate our need to train or attract unattainably high numbers of physicians."

(Photo Caption: Senator Gilbert Kahele joins his House colleagues and Lieutenant Governor Shan Tsutsui for the enactment of Senate Bill 1221 and House Bill 417.) (Photo Courtesy: Senate Communications.)

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