A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Hawaii depends heavily on air service for 2 transportation, medical supplies and other medical needs, and 3 commercial goods. As an island-state, residents depend on air 4 service for the transport of passengers, goods, and services 5 among islands. Inter-island travel is a key component of the 6 Hawaii's tourism industry and stimulates tourism, the largest 7 single contributor to the State's gross domestic product.

According to the Hawaii tourism authority, visitors to the 8 State spend in excess of \$1,200,000,000 per month. 9 The legislature finds that there is a proliferation of helicopter 10 use in the State for travel, recreational, and medical needs. 11 However, despite the significant function of helicopters to air 12 travel in the State, only traditional aircraft are afforded 13 certain tax exemptions. Due to changes in the aviation industry 14 and increased travel options, taxes levied on aviation 15 16 businesses must be updated to promote inter-island travel



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options for visitors and residents, and for the interests of the
 State.

The purpose of this Act is to create equity among the types of aircraft in the State by exempting the amounts received for the servicing and maintenance of helicopters and the construction of helicopter service and maintenance facilities, from the general excise tax.

8 SECTION 2. Section 237-24.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by amending the definition of "aircraft" in subsection
10 (b) to read as follows:

II "Aircraft" means any craft or artificial contrivance of Whatever description engaged in intrastate, interstate, or international scheduled commercial use as defined in chapter 263, that operates with two or more jet engines[-], or a

15 <u>helicopter.</u>"

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16 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 4. This Act, upon its approval, shall apply to19 taxable years beginning after December 31, 2018.

INTRODUCED BY:

HB HMS 2018-1154

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JAN 1 9 2018



Report Title:

General Excise Tax; Exemption; Helicopter Servicing and Maintenance Facility

Description:

Amends the definition of "aircraft" under section 237-24.9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include helicopters. Exempts amounts received for the servicing and maintenance of helicopters and the construction of helicopter service and maintenance facilities, from the general excise tax.

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