
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the emergence and
2 development of unmanned aerial systems, including unmanned
3 aerial vehicles that are commonly referred to as "drones",
4 provide numerous benefits for the people of Hawaii on many
5 fronts. Unmanned aerial systems provide the State and the
6 public with next-generation tools and technologies in aerial
7 reconnaissance and surveying. These tools can be used for a
8 multitude of beneficial purposes, including new economic
9 opportunities in technology, new tools to help law enforcement
10 and emergency personnel with their critical duties, and
11 additional means for state agencies and private sector entities
12 to carry out functions at a lower cost and with less danger to
13 their employees.

14 The legislature further finds that at the national level,
15 standards controlling unmanned aerial system design, operation,
16 and regulation are beginning to emerge cohesively through the
17 efforts of industry, professional engineering societies, the



1 United States Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation
2 Administration, and the White House Office of Science and
3 Technology Policy. Hawaii is fortunate to have direct contact
4 with those efforts and the information obtained therefrom is
5 very useful in helping the legislature to understand these
6 issues and formulate potential action. Within this context, the
7 legislature finds that the State has applied to serve as a "Lead
8 Applicant" in the Federal Aviation Administration's "Unmanned
9 Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program", through which the
10 Federal Aviation Administration seeks to apply this emergent
11 technology locally across the spectrum of Hawaii's economy,
12 infrastructure, and society.

13 The legislature recognizes that because of the rapidly
14 changing landscape of federal regulation and technology, the
15 establishment of a permanent unmanned aerial systems task force
16 is essential to ensure that the State can quickly react to any
17 changes in federal law or technology. Specifically, the
18 legislature intends, by the establishment of this permanent task
19 force, to ensure that vital stakeholders and the public can
20 respond to the various changes in regulation and technology as
21 they occur, rather than endlessly study unmanned aerial system



1 issues. A permanent task force on unmanned aerial systems would
2 also allow Hawaii to coordinate with the permanent task forces
3 or working groups of other states to better harmonize state laws
4 and create a united front to the federal government when
5 suggesting amendments to federal law.

6 By adopting a permanent task force as other states have
7 done, Hawaii can not only remain on the forefront of unmanned
8 aerial systems regulation and promotion, but can also respond to
9 a potential repeal of federal regulations in this area.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
11 permanent task force on unmanned aerial systems.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
13 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read
14 as follows:

15 "PART

16 PERMANENT TASK FORCE ON UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

17 §27- Permanent task force on unmanned aerial systems;
18 establishment. (a) There is established the permanent task
19 force on unmanned aerial systems within the office of the
20 lieutenant governor for administrative purposes only. The task
21 force shall consist of the following members:



- 1 (1) The unmanned aerial systems program director of the
2 applied research laboratory of the University of
3 Hawaii, who shall serve as chair;
- 4 (2) The director of transportation or the director's
5 designee;
- 6 (3) The director of business, economic development, and
7 tourism or the director's designee;
- 8 (4) The chairperson of the board of land and natural
9 resources or the chairperson's designee;
- 10 (5) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the
11 chairperson's designee;
- 12 (6) The attorney general or the attorney general's
13 designee;
- 14 (7) Three members appointed by the Hawaii state
15 association of counties, including:
 - 16 (A) One member representing fire and emergency
17 medical services personnel;
 - 18 (B) One member representing a county police
19 department; and
 - 20 (C) One member representing a county department of
21 planning and permitting;



1 provided that at least one person appointed pursuant
2 to this paragraph shall be from a county with a
3 population of less than five hundred thousand;

4 (8) One member, representing a privacy advocacy group, to
5 be appointed by the governor;

6 (9) One member, representing the commercial unmanned
7 aerial systems industry, to be appointed by the
8 speaker of the house of representatives; and

9 (10) One member, representing the motion picture, film, and
10 television industry, to be appointed by the president
11 of the senate.

12 (b) Task force members shall be appointed within ninety
13 days of the effective date of this Act. The task force shall
14 hold its initial meeting within thirty days of the date on which
15 all members have been appointed.

16 (c) The task force shall study and make recommendations
17 for the regulation of the operation and use of unmanned aerial
18 systems, commonly referred to as drones, within the State. As
19 part of the study, the task force shall consider:

20 (1) Use of unmanned aerial systems by public agencies,
21 commercial entities, and private persons;



- 1 (2) Landowner and privacy rights;
- 2 (3) Existing federal laws and regulations regarding
- 3 unmanned aerial systems;
- 4 (4) Laws enacted by other states regarding the use and
- 5 operation of unmanned aerial systems;
- 6 (5) General rules, regulations, and safe practices for the
- 7 operation of unmanned aerial systems;
- 8 (6) Permitting systems for unmanned aerial vehicle use;
- 9 and
- 10 (7) Any other issue deemed necessary by the task force.
- 11 (d) Members of the task force shall serve without
- 12 compensation.
- 13 (e) No member of the task force shall be made subject to
- 14 chapter 84 solely because of that member's participation as a
- 15 member of the task force.
- 16 (f) Whenever practical, the task force shall work in
- 17 collaboration with task forces or working groups on unmanned
- 18 aerial systems and unmanned aerial vehicles of other states.
- 19 (g) Whenever practical, the task force shall work in
- 20 collaboration with federal entities on unmanned aerial system
- 21 policies and recommendations.



1 §27- Reports. The permanent task force on unmanned
 2 aerial systems shall submit a report of its findings and
 3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
 4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
 5 each regular session, beginning with the regular session of
 6 2019. The report shall also include any information or data
 7 resulting from the task force's collaborative efforts with
 8 federal entities and other states."

9 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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H.B. NO. 2655

Report Title:

Permanent Task Force on Unmanned Aerial Systems; Lieutenant Governor

Description:

Creates a permanent task force on unmanned aerial systems, to be attached to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for administrative purposes. Requires the task force to provide annual reports to the Legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

