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HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO OFFER A FIFTY-YEAR LEASE TO THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE CONTINUATION OF GENERAL AVIATION ACTIVITIES AT DILLINGHAM AIRFIELD.

WHEREAS, Dillingham Airfield consists of 272 acres within the Dillingham Military Reservation; and

WHEREAS, currently, Dillingham Airfield is operated by the Hawaii Department of Transportation under a five-year lease from the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Department of Transportation decided that it is not in the state's best interest to continue leasing Dillingham Airfield and the lease will conclude on June 30, 2020 unless action is taken; and

WHEREAS, ending this lease will have negative effects on local businesses that are tenants of Dillingham Airfield because airfield management will be returned to the United States Army and all for profit commercial activity will likely cease; and

WHEREAS, the existence of short-term leases of Dillingham Airfield has burdened the tenants and the Hawaii Department of Transportation's ability to operate and maintain the airfield due to uncertainty of the future; and

WHEREAS, Dillingham Airfield is important to the community as a center for aviation training, youth programs, and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, investment in the airfield such as maintenance and construction of buildings has grown increasingly difficult to achieve with the restrictively short leases that have been offered by the United States Army to the Hawaii Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, offering an extended lease will encourage investment into Dillingham Airfield which will benefit both federal and local entities, and lead to a more sustainable and effective use of the airfield that will benefit the people of Hawaii; and

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BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the federal government and the United States Department of the Army are urged to offer a fifty-year lease to the Hawaii Department of Transportation to continue operating at Dillingham Airfield; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Lieutenant Governor; Hawaii Director of Transportation; The United States Department of Transportation; The United States Department of the Army; Director of Transportation Services of the City and County of Honolulu; the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu; the state Senator representing the district.

OFFERED BY:

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