
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DESIGNATE THE
REEF RUNWAY AS THE FRANK T. OKIMOTO REEF RUNWAY.

1 WHEREAS, to alleviate aircraft noise patterns over Honolulu
2 and the surrounding areas, the Reef Runway was constructed on
3 coral reef adjacent to the Honolulu International Airport in
4 1977; and

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6 WHEREAS, construction of the Reef Runway cost \$89,000,000;
7 and

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9 WHEREAS, the Reef Runway is the world's first major runway
10 built entirely offshore; and

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12 WHEREAS, the engineering achievements of the Reef Runway
13 earned the project two awards: one of the Ten Outstanding
14 Engineering Achievements Awards in the United States in 1977
15 from the National Society of Professional Engineers, and the
16 Aviation Environment Award from the Federal Aviation
17 Administration, which had only been awarded once before; and

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19 WHEREAS, the runway was designed to serve as an alternative
20 landing site for the Space Shuttle; and

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22 WHEREAS, the Project Engineer for the Reef Runway was the
23 late Frank T. Okimoto, who served as an airports civil engineer
24 from 1967 until his untimely passing in 1978; and

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26 WHEREAS, Frank T. Okimoto was a graduate of Roosevelt High
27 School and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and a resident of
28 Manoa; and

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30 WHEREAS, because Frank T. Okimoto fully supported
31 environmental surveys regarding the design and construction of



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1 the Reef Runway, great care was taken during the design and
 2 construction of the Reef Runway to minimize the environmental
 3 impacts of the runway on surrounding areas, including any
 4 impacts on the indigenous bird population of the region,
 5 resulting in improved water quality; and

6
 7 WHEREAS, according to the "State of Hawaii, Department of
 8 Transportation, Report to the Governor, Fiscal Years 1978 and
 9 1979", Frank T. Okimoto's "insight, questions and exacting
 10 standards motivated the highest goals from everyone connected
 11 with the project. In respect and affection from co-workers, the
 12 Reef Runway has been called 'Frank's Runway'"; and

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 14 WHEREAS, designating the Reef Runway as the Frank T.
 15 Okimoto Reef Runway will not adversely affect any state or
 16 federal funding for the runway or Daniel K. Inouye International
 17 Airport; now, therefore,

18
 19 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 20 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 21 of 2021, the Senate concurring, that the Department of
 22 Transportation is requested to designate the Reef Runway at the
 23 Daniel K. Inouye International Airport as the Frank T. Okimoto
 24 Reef Runway; and

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 26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
 27 Transportation is requested to erect and maintain appropriate
 28 signage for the Frank T. Okimoto Reef Runway; and

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 30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 31 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
 32 and Director of Transportation.

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OFFERED BY: 
 MAR 12 2021

