
HOUSE 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

29
30 WHEREAS, because Frank T. Okimoto fully supported
31 environmental surveys regarding the design and construction of
32 the Reef Runway, great care was taken during the design and
33 construction of the Reef Runway to minimize the environmental



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1 impacts of the runway on surrounding areas, including any
2 impacts on the indigenous bird population of the region,
3 resulting in improved water quality; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to the "State of Hawaii, Department of
6 Transportation, Report to the Governor, Fiscal Years 1978 and
7 1979", Frank T. Okimoto's "insight, questions and exacting
8 standards motivated the highest goals from everyone connected
9 with the project. In respect and affection from co-workers, the
10 Reef Runway has been called 'Frank's Runway'"; and
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12 WHEREAS, designating the Reef Runway as the Frank T.
13 Okimoto Reef Runaway will not adversely affect any state or
14 federal funding for the runway or Daniel K. Inouye International
15 Airport; now, therefore,
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17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
18 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
19 of 2021, that the Department of Transportation is requested to
20 designate the Reef Runway at the Daniel K. Inouye International
21 Airport as the Frank T. Okimoto Reef Runway; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
24 Transportation is requested to erect and maintain appropriate
25 signage for the Frank T. Okimoto Reef Runway; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
28 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor,
29 and Director of Transportation.
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OFFERED BY: 
MAR 12 2021

