

JAN 27 2021

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AIRPORTS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Kawaihapai Airfield,  
2 also known as Dillingham Airfield, has been a vital economic and  
3 tourism contributor to the economy of Oahu's north shore. In  
4 2019, the airfield had 33,805 aircraft operations, more than  
5 Kapalua, Lanai, and Kalaupapa regional airports combined. The  
6 legislature further finds that the small business tenants at  
7 Kawaihapai Airfield generate over \$12,000,000 in yearly revenues  
8 and employ over one hundred and thirty people, which include  
9 flight instructors, pilots, aircraft maintenance personnel, tour  
10 operators, office staff, and more.

11           The legislature further finds that the department of  
12 transportation leases Kawaihapai Airfield from the United States  
13 Department of the Army. The department of transportation has  
14 announced that it plans to exercise the early termination  
15 provision of its lease agreement with the U.S. Army as of  
16 June 30, 2021, which will put the jobs and future revenues from  
17 airport operations in jeopardy.



1           The purpose of this Act is to allow any county the  
2 authority to operate and maintain airfields and airports.

3           SECTION 2. Section 261-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5           "**§261-4 Airports, general.** (a) Establishment, operation,  
6 maintenance. The department of transportation may, on behalf of  
7 and in the name of the State, or any county, out of  
8 appropriations and other moneys available or made available for  
9 such purposes, plan, acquire, establish, construct, enlarge,  
10 improve, maintain, equip, install, operate, regulate, and  
11 protect, airports, air navigation facilities, buildings, and  
12 other facilities to provide for the servicing of aircraft; to  
13 provide for the comfort, accommodation, and convenience of air  
14 travelers; and to protect against airport hazards.

15           (b) Acquisition of property. By purchase, gift, devise,  
16 lease, or condemnation in accordance with chapter 101, the  
17 department or any county may acquire property, real or personal,  
18 or any interest therein, including the property rights, estates,  
19 and interests mentioned in section 262-11. The department or  
20 any county may acquire rights and interests in airports owned or  
21 controlled by others, for the purpose of meeting a civilian need



1 which is within the scope of its functions, even though it does  
2 not have the exclusive control and operation of such airports.  
3 The department or any county may also acquire excess federal  
4 lands as permitted by federal law.

5 (c) Structures and improvements. All structures and  
6 improvements to land, to be used for airport purposes, may be  
7 planned, designed, and constructed by the department or any  
8 county.

9 (d) Use of state and municipal facilities and services.  
10 In carrying out this chapter, the department or any county may  
11 use the facilities and services of other agencies of the State  
12 and of the municipalities of the State and the agencies and  
13 municipalities shall make available their facilities and  
14 services.

15 (e) Fire and safety inspection. The State shall conduct  
16 fire and safety inspections at all state-owned airport  
17 facilities at least once a year, as provided in section  
18 132-6(b)."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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# S.B. NO. 1369

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Gil Riviere*



# S.B. NO. 1369

**Report Title:**

Airports; Department of Transportation; Dillingham Airfield

**Description:**

Allows any county to operate or maintain an airport or airfield.

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

