
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REVIEW, REVISE,
AND UPDATE PLANS FOR THE DANIEL K. INOUE INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE PANDEMICS, PRIORITIZE USER
EXPERIENCE, ESTABLISH A HAWAII SENSE OF PLACE, INCORPORATE
GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS, AND MODERNIZE HAWAII'S LARGEST
AIRPORT.

1 WHEREAS, in 2019, approximately twenty million travelers
2 passed through the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL);
3 and

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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's largest airport serves as the very first
6 gateway to the United States for countless visitors from East
7 Asia and from around the Pacific Rim; and

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9 WHEREAS, the airport also serves as the first introduction
10 to Hawaii for visitors who often expect to arrive in a Pacific
11 island paradise; and

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13 WHEREAS, current infrastructure at HNL is a patchwork of
14 different architectural styles and functional designs dating
15 back to statehood; and

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17 WHEREAS, residents and visitors frequently comment on the
18 airport's concrete terminals, claustrophobic bagging areas, dark
19 curbside pickup areas, and unpleasant views of surrounding
20 industrial areas; and

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22 WHEREAS, due to the patchwork construction of airport
23 facilities over many years, navigating the airport experience,
24 from its start at the freeway offramp to its culmination at the
25 airline gate, is often unintuitive and disjointed; and

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27 WHEREAS, in spite of these challenges, the best parts of
28 the airport experience, as commonly cited by residents and
29 visitors, are the open-air atmosphere of certain portions of the
30 airport and, above all, the open and lush gardens and vegetation



1 in some areas that help to create a relaxed, Hawaii sense of
2 place; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has made
5 significant efforts to begin improving HNL, including
6 modernizing restrooms, constructing a new mauka concourse,
7 consolidating rental car facilities, and beginning the process
8 of planning a new Diamond Head terminal to add capacity; and
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10 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation also recently
11 undertook commendable emergency work to rapidly deploy plans and
12 take action to screen passengers at HNL during the COVID-19
13 pandemic; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation expects to
16 commence billions of dollars in renovations and new projects at
17 HNL once the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are resolved and
18 the situation has sufficiently stabilized; and
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20 WHEREAS, until that time, there is an opportunity to
21 reassess future airport plans and priorities to incorporate
22 lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and to address
23 longstanding issues that have impacted resident and visitor
24 experiences at HNL; and
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26 WHEREAS, currently, other major airports are similarly
27 rethinking their future plans and placing them on hold in light
28 of the possibility of future pandemics as well as a rapidly
29 evolving revenue environment; now, therefore,
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31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
32 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
33 that the Department of Transportation is requested to review,
34 revise, and update plans for HNL; and
35

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the update of airport plans
37 should:
38

- 39 (1) Prepare to address future pandemics;
- 40
- 41 (2) Prioritize resident and visitor experience;
- 42



- 1 (3) Establish a Hawaii sense of place that maximizes
2 comfortable, open-air design and expands upon the lush
3 gardens, palm trees, and vegetation commonly cited as
4 the best part of the HNL experience;
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- 6 (4) Be of architectural significance and cultural
7 relevance to Hawaii;
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- 9 (5) Include expanded art exhibits, cultural references,
10 and narrative storytelling;
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- 12 (6) Incorporate modern, green building standards and
13 address climate change considerations;
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- 15 (7) Update and align airport sustainability goals with the
16 sustainable development goals of Hawaii and the United
17 Nations;
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- 19 (8) Address the airport as a whole, which may be done in
20 phases, so as not to perpetuate disjointed planning
21 and design; and
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- 23 (9) Consider what other airport modernization and
24 renovation projects may increase revenue generation,
25 including the addition of entertainment and other
26 innovative experiences; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
29 Transportation is requested to involve in the planning process:

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- 31 (1) Experts having a history of architectural significance
32 in the State;
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- 34 (2) Experts having a history of significance in the State
35 for landscape design;
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- 37 (3) Experts having a history in green building standards
38 and practices;
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- 40 (4) Experts who are knowledgeable about incorporating
41 educational programming into the planning and design
42 process;



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2 (5) The Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on
3 Transportation; and
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5 (6) The Chair of the House of Representatives Standing
6 Committee on Transportation; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
10 Transportation.

