

MAR 10 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO EVALUATE OPTIONS THAT PROVIDE ADDITIONAL AIR SERVICE TO REMOTE AND UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE STATE.

1 WHEREAS, as an island state, Hawaii is reliant upon air
2 travel to ensure residents and tourists have timely
3 transportation options to navigate between islands; and
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5 WHEREAS, since January 2021, only one passenger airline has
6 provided service to the general public out of Molokai Airport;
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9 WHEREAS, while the airline does their best to accommodate
10 the needs of passengers, including additional routes, flight
11 times, and ordering larger planes, the cost of plane tickets
12 remains a burden to many Molokai residents who need to travel
13 for essential reasons, including work, medical appointments, and
14 family; and
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16 WHEREAS, in addition to costly ticket prices and limited
17 flights, there are significant flight delays and cancellations
18 that have caused undue burden on Molokai residents; and
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20 WHEREAS, presently, airlines and air travel are regulated
21 by the Federal Aviation Administration; and
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23 WHEREAS, the lack of consistent, available flights between
24 rural communities and major hubs such as Honolulu pose a health
25 and safety issue; and
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27 WHEREAS, the collaboration of federal, state, and county
28 agencies is needed to ensure residents who live in rural or
29 underserved communities have greater access to air travel
30 options for essential reasons; now, therefore,
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S.C.R. NO. 170

1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
3 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
4 Transportation is urged to establish a working group to evaluate
5 options that provide additional air service to remote and
6 underserved communities across the State; and

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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
9 to evaluate options, including:

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11 (1) An airline subsidy to offset the cost of passenger
12 tickets; and

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14 (2) Encouragement of other airlines to provide service at
15 rural airports, including Molokai Airport; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
18 to consist of the following members:

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20 (1) The Manager of the Federal Aviation Administration
21 Honolulu Airports District Office;

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23 (2) The Deputy Director for Transportation - Airports, or
24 their designee;

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26 (3) The Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, or
27 their designee;

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29 (4) A representative from each county transportation
30 department; and

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32 (5) Any additional members whose expertise may be relevant
33 and as recommended by the working group; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
36 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
37 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
38 than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session
39 of 2024; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
42 to be dissolved on June 30, 2024; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Manager of the Federal Aviation Administration Honolulu Airports District Office, Director of Transportation, Deputy Director for Airports, Chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, and director of each county transportation department.

OFFERED BY:

Lyn DeCote

