



**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097**

March 14, 2024
3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

**H.B. 1932, H.D. 2
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

Committee On Transportation and Culture and The Arts

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) **supports H.B. 1932, H.D. 2 with comments**, which authorizes HDOT to directly acquire and hold title to real property for its purposes.

HDOT strongly endorses efforts to streamline the acquisition and disposition process. Passage of this measure will expedite project completion and improve the public transportation system's safety, efficiency, accessibility, and sustainability.

HDOT requests deferring the effective date until January 1, 2025, to develop administrative rules and align operations for the direct acquisition and disposition process.

HDOT supports the amendment made in H.B. 1932, H.D. 1, that incorporated the comments and suggestion from DLNR and deleted language that would have permitted the acquisition of existing public lands through condemnation that are already devoted to public use.

HDOT offers a suggested amendment to exempt lands that are set aside by the governor to the department of transportation and lands leased to the department of transportation by any department or agency of the State from the definition of public lands under HRS section 171-2, amending paragraph (16) as follows:

(16) Lands that are set aside by the governor to the department of transportation, lands leased to the department of transportation by any department or agency of the State, or lands to which the department of transportation holds title;

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Tuesday, March 12, 2024

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts



Support for H.B. 1932, HD2 Relating to DOT's Leasing of Public Lands

I am writing on behalf of Signature Aviation, a prominent commercial aeronautical tenant of the State of Hawaii's (State's) Department of Transportation (DOT) at six State-owned airports and at over 200 worldwide airports, to express our strong support for H.B. 1932. This crucial legislation seeks to streamline the process for reviewing and approving the leasing of land to which the DOT holds title at Hawaii airports.

This bill proposes that the DOT, with its direct involvement and expertise in airport operations and land management, be the sole authority for reviewing and approving these public land leases. Such a change would not only align more closely with the operational realities of airport management but also ensure compliance with the State's obligations to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) related to Airport Improvement Program grants.


The benefits of this bill extend beyond administrative efficiency. By enabling quicker lease approvals, it opens the door for accelerated capital investment by airport tenants like ourselves. This, in turn, will spur the generation of direct revenues for the State through increased land rents and fees. Moreover, it will boost the State's economy by creating jobs and enhancing tourism, thereby contributing to Hawaii's overall economic vitality.

Signature Aviation, as a committed partner in Hawaii's aviation sector, understands the importance of efficient and effective airport management. The proposed changes in H.B. 1932, HD2 will facilitate a more responsive and agile airport lease management system, which is essential for the continued growth and development of Hawaii's airports and, by extension, its economy.

We encourage the Hawaii State Legislature to pass this bill, recognizing its potential to significantly benefit the State's airports, its economy, and the myriad of businesses and individuals who rely on them.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Vice President
Airport Relations & Strategic Programs