
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE TO RECOGNIZE AND ADDRESS
THE AIR TRANSPORTATION CRISIS ON MOLOKAI AND LĀNA`I.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is an island state where residents rely
2 primarily on air transportation services; and
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4 WHEREAS, Molokai and Lāna`i residents face a unique
5 struggle with the high cost and inconsistency of air travel and
6 the lack of sufficient access to critical medical care; and
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8 WHEREAS, prior to the coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic,
9 Makani Kai Air, Ohana by Hawaiian Airlines, and Mokulele
10 Airlines provided air transportation services to the islands of
11 Molokai and Lāna`i; and
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13 WHEREAS, following the COVID-19 pandemic, Makani Kai Air
14 and Ohana by Hawaiian Airlines both ceased operations, leaving
15 only Mokulele Airlines to provide air transportation services to
16 Molokai and Lāna`i; and
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18 WHEREAS, many Hawaii residents who live in rural and remote
19 communities must regularly travel to urban areas of the State to
20 access specialized healthcare as well as many routine
21 treatments, including residents of Molokai and Lāna`i who are
22 dependent upon air transportation to travel for nonemergency but
23 critical medical care; and
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25 WHEREAS, generally, the provision of air transportation
26 services has become increasingly expensive and unreliable, with
27 frequent and unexpected flight reassignments and cancellations;
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30 WHEREAS, this issue causes many residents seeking medical
31 care to miss critical appointments, including chemotherapy



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1 treatments and surgeries that can take weeks or months to
2 reschedule; and

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4 WHEREAS, this issue has also caused treatable non-emergency
5 conditions to develop into conditions requiring critical
6 emergency care; and

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8 WHEREAS, federal regulations hinder the State's ability to
9 manage air transportation and thus forestall any attempt to
10 improve the situation for residents of Molokai and Lāna`i; and

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12 WHEREAS, therefore, the lack of dependable air
13 transportation for residents of Lāna`i and Molokai means that
14 residents no longer have reliable access to critical healthcare
15 services, causing the situation to now constitute a crisis; and

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17 WHEREAS, improved air transportation services to Molokai
18 and Lāna`i would ensure that affected residents have access to a
19 broader range of off-island healthcare services and could help
20 to attract highly skilled medical professionals; and

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22 WHEREAS, improving air transportation services to Molokai
23 and Lāna`i would also significantly reduce the stress and
24 logistical challenges associated with traveling for necessary
25 healthcare, business, and other personal appointments, meetings,
26 and needs; and

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28 WHEREAS, addressing the air transport crisis on Molokai and
29 Lāna`i and ensuring the provision of reliable air transportation
30 services for these communities would also help to ensure greater
31 inclusivity and equity in the provision of healthcare services
32 to all residents; now, therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
35 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
36 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that the United States
37 and the State are urged to recognize and take action to address
38 the ongoing air transport crisis on Molokai and Lāna`i; and

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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
42 United States; Majority Leader of the United States Senate;

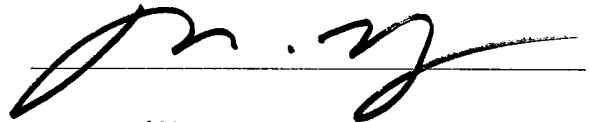


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1 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; United
2 States Secretary of State; United States Secretary of
3 Transportation; Chair of the United States Senate Committee on
4 Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Chair of the United
5 States Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and
6 Transportation's Subcommittee on Aviation, Safety, and
7 Operations; Chair of the United States House of Representatives
8 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; Chair of the
9 United States House of Representatives Committee on
10 Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Aviation;
11 Co-Chairs of the Congressional Bipartisan Rural Health Caucus;
12 Administrator of the United States Federal Aviation
13 Administration; members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation;
14 Governor of Hawaii; and the Chief Executive Officer of Mokulele
15 Airlines.

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OFFERED BY:



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