
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the dramatic
3 increase in helicopter activity over the last two decades has
4 led to a significant increase in flights over Hawaii resulting
5 in increasing complaints from communities around the state.
6 Over that period of time numerous helicopter crashes and
7 fatalities have occurred and continue to occur. As a result,
8 the legislature passed Act 311, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022
9 (Act 311), which required helicopter tour operators to report
10 basic data about when and where operators are flying and
11 established the Hawaii air noise and safety task force to
12 convene stakeholders to address these concerns. Subsequently,
13 the helicopter industry sued to prevent the law from taking
14 effect.

15 The legislation further finds that the purpose of this part
16 is to reconvene the Hawaii air noise and safety task force,



1 pursuant to the intent of Act 311 in the Department of
2 Transportation.

3 SECTION 2. (a) There is established an air noise and
4 safety task force within the department of transportation for
5 administrative purposes.

6 (b) The air noise and safety task force shall:

7 (1) Collect and review public complaints regarding
8 aircraft noise and safety;

9 (2) Identify key aircraft noise and safety issues
10 affecting the State;

11 (3) Make recommendations that address aircraft noise and
12 safety issues related to the Federal Aviation
13 Administration National Transportation Safety Board
14 and other appropriate federal agencies;

15 (4) Make recommendations that address business practices
16 and aircraft operators falling within state and local
17 jurisdiction; and

18 (5) Make recommendations that address aircraft noise and
19 safety issues of aircraft operators.

20 (c) The members of the task force shall include:



- 1 (1) A member of the senate appointed by the president of
- 2 the senate, who shall serve as a co-chair of the task
- 3 force;
- 4 (2) A member of the house of representatives appointed by
- 5 the speaker of the house of representatives, who shall
- 6 serve as a co-chair of the task force;
- 7 (3) The director of transportation, or the director's
- 8 designee; and
- 9 (4) The director of the office of planning and sustainable
- 10 development, or the director's designee.
- 11 (d) The co-chairs of the task force shall invite the
- 12 following persons to join the task force:
- 13 (1) A representative from the Federal Aviation
- 14 Administration;
- 15 (2) A representative from the National Transportation
- 16 Safety Board;
- 17 (3) Not less than one representative from the helicopter
- 18 industry;
- 19 (4) Not less than one representative from the small
- 20 aircraft agency; and



1 (5) Representatives from communities impacted by aircraft
2 noise or having safety concerns.

3 (e) The members of the task force shall serve without
4 compensation but shall be reimbursed for expenses, including
5 travel expenses, necessary for the performance of their duties.

6 (f) The task force shall submit a preliminary report of its
7 findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation,
8 to the legislature no later than December 1, of each year.

9 PART II

10 SECTION 3. The legislature further finds that there have
11 been incidents leading to unexpected and significant delays for
12 travelers at Hawaii airports, as well as ongoing issues with
13 security, labor, and overall traveler experience, as well as
14 significant changes with airport stakeholders such as the merger
15 of airlines and changing world travelling patterns since the
16 COVID-19 pandemic. To help address these issues, there should
17 be convened an Airports Advisory Council to discuss these issues
18 and in the short term develop plans and process with relevant
19 stakeholders both in and outside airports for handling delays to
20 ensure stakeholders in the hospitality and other industries are
21 engaged and ready to smoothly handle unexpected disruptions, and



1 in the long term examine other airports and evaluate other
2 structures of design, planning, operations, and structure, such
3 as corporations or other relevant considerations.

4 The legislature finds that the purpose of this part is to
5 establish an airports advisory council to provide a forum to
6 identify and discuss potential improvements to airports,
7 operations, disruptions, and structure.

8 SECTION 4. (a) There is established an airports advisory
9 council to be placed within the department of transportation for
10 administrative purposes only.

11 (b) The airports advisory council shall:

12 (1) Provide an ongoing forum for coordinating relevant
13 stakeholders and issues as they relate to airports,
14 air transportation, and any other issues as may be
15 appropriate;

16 (2) Develop plans and contingencies which may be updated
17 as necessary, for each airport that provides for a
18 coordinated response between airport stakeholders and
19 others as may be relevant in the surrounding community
20 to best accommodate travelers and employees in the



1 event of significant disruptions, emergencies, and
2 unexpected events; and

3 (3) Evaluate design consideration, operations, best
4 practices, and other structures of management such as
5 corporations at other national and international
6 airports.

7 (c) The council shall be chaired by the deputy director of
8 the airports division of the department of transportation, or the
9 deputy director's designee, and shall be composed of airport and
10 airline transportation stakeholders including but not limited to
11 representatives invited by the chair of relevant:

12 (1) Airlines;

13 (2) Labor Unions;

14 (3) Concessions;

15 (4) Hospitality;

16 (5) Airport related law enforcement;

17 (6) Chairs of the senate and house of representatives
18 committees with jurisdiction over air transportation;

19 and

20 (7) Any other stakeholders the chair deems to be relevant.



1 SECTION 5. (a) The department of transportation may,
2 through the adoption of administrative rules pursuant to chapter
3 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, designate an airport security area
4 within an airport property.

5 (b) A designated airport security area shall be identified
6 by posted and visible signage at reasonable intervals, that
7 shall include any rules specific to the airport security area.

8 (c) Within a designated airport security area, the
9 department of transportation may:

- 10 (1) Restrict or limit public access, including by date or
- 11 time;
- 12 (2) Restrict or limit the maintaining, placing, or leaving
- 13 of personal property in a public right of way;
- 14 (3) Restrict or limit standing, sitting, or laying in a
- 15 public right of way; and
- 16 (4) Restrict or limit public access by an individual to
- 17 not more than a specified duration of time.

18 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
20 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
21 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal



1 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of the airports advisory
2 council.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

5 PART III

6 SECTION 7. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
9 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
10 year 2026-2027 for the establishment within the airports
11 division of the department of transportation of:

- 12 (1) One full-time (1.0 FTE) chief airports planner
13 position;
- 14 (2) One full-time (1.0 FTE) chief airports architect
15 position;
- 16 (3) One full-time (1.0 FTE) chief landscape architect
17 position;
- 18 (4) One full-time (1.0 FTE) planning expert position, with
19 history and expertise in placemaking, resort and
20 thematic experiences; and



1 (5) One full-time (1.0 FTE) branding and marketing expert
2 position.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of transportation for the purposes of this Act.

5 PART IV

6 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOT; Airports; Air Noise and Safety Task Force; Airports
Advisory Council; Positions; Appropriations

Description:

Establishes the Air Noise and Safety Task Force. Establishes the Airports Advisory Council. Authorizes the Department of Transportation to adopt administrative rules to designate an airport security area within an airport property. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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