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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in fiscal year 2023-  
2       2024, Hawaii's statewide airport system accommodated over 38.3  
3       million passengers. With thousands of aircraft operations each  
4       month, the department of transportation's airports division  
5       ensures that Hawaii remains connected, resilient, and ready to  
6       meet the demands of residents, visitors, and businesses alike.  
7       The mission of the department of transportation is to develop  
8       and maintain a safe and efficient global air transportation  
9       system.

10       As a federally obligated recipient of airport grants, the  
11       department of transportation must ensure compliance with several  
12       grant assurances, including Grant Assurance #19, Operations and  
13       Maintenance, which states in part, "The airport and all  
14       facilities which are necessary to serve the aeronautical users  
15       of the airport, other than facilities owned and controlled by  
16       the United States, shall be operated at all times in a safe and  
17       serviceable condition and in accordance with the minimum  
18       standards as may be required or prescribed by applicable

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1 Federal, state, and local agencies for maintenance and  
2 operation. It will not cause or permit any activity or action  
3 thereon which would interfere with its use for airport  
4 purposes."

5 The purpose of this Act is to allow the establishment of  
6 airport special district zones within airports statewide to  
7 ensure the appropriate use and safe and serviceable conditions  
8 of all airport facilities, including the safety of traveling  
9 public and airport employees.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 261, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
12 and to read as follows:

13 "§261- Airport special district. (a) The department  
14 may establish and maintain airport special district zones within  
15 airports statewide. An "airport special district" includes any  
16 area of land or water that is used, or intended for use, for the  
17 landing and takeoff of aircraft, and any appurtenant areas that  
18 are used, or intended for use, for airport buildings or other  
19 airport facilities or rights-of-way, including approaches,  
20 together with all airport buildings and facilities located  
21 thereon.

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1        (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or remain  
2 within an airport special district zone. Unlawful entry  
3 includes, but is not limited to, entry by individuals:

4        (1) Carrying weapons, explosives, or other harmful  
5 devices, unless on an authorized law enforcement  
6 personnel;

7        (2) Engaging in activities that disrupt airport  
8 operations; or

9        (3) Failing to comply with posted signage or verbal  
10 instructions from law enforcement or airport  
11 personnel.

12       (c) No person shall sit, sleep, lie, or store, use,  
13 maintain, or place personal property, or otherwise obstruct  
14 within the airport special district public right-of-way.

15       (d) Violators of this section shall be subject to  
16 immediate removal from the airport special district, fines, and  
17 other penalties as provided under this chapter.

18       (e) The department shall collaborate with the appropriate  
19 law enforcement agencies to enforce this section and may adopt  
20 rules pursuant to chapter 91 to:

21       (1) Define the boundaries of an airport special district  
22 zone;

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(2) Specify authorized personnel and activities within the airport special district zones;

(3) Establish procedures for issuing warnings or citations to violators; and

(4) Provide for the placement of clear and conspicuous signage at all entry points to the airport special district zones.

(f) This section shall not apply to:

(1) Active airport users, broadly defined by Federal Aviation Administration, include

airline passengers, airport employees, concessionaires, ground transportation providers, vendors and contractors, or prior authorization or permits issued by the department or other appropriate authorities;

(2) Emergency responders and law enforcement acting within the scope of their duties; or

(3) Other individuals exempted by rules adopted under this section."

SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or

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1 applications of the Act, which can be given effect without the  
2 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
3 of this Act are severable.

4 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act, upon its approval, shall take effect  
6 on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY: Machina K. Nubun

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BY REQUEST

JAN 26 2026

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**Report Title:**

DOT; Airport; Airport Special District

**Description:**

Authorizes the Department of Transportation to designate airport special district zones within airports statewide. Adds a new HRS section to help prevent unauthorized access and enhance security. Effective 07/01/26.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Transportation

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO  
TRANSPORTATION.

PURPOSE: To establish airport special district zones  
within airports statewide to ensure the  
appropriate use and safe and serviceable  
conditions of all airport facilities,  
including the safety of the traveling public  
and airport employees.

MEANS: Add a new section to chapter 261, Hawaii  
Revised Statutes (HRS).

JUSTIFICATION: As a federally obligated recipient of  
airport grants, the Department must ensure  
compliance with several grant assurances,  
including Grant Assurance #19, Operations  
and Maintenance, which states in part, "The  
airport and all facilities which are  
necessary to serve the aeronautical users of  
the airport, other than facilities owned and  
controlled by the United States, shall be  
operated at all times in a safe and  
serviceable condition and in accordance with  
the minimum standards as may be required or  
prescribed by applicable federal, state, and  
local agencies for maintenance and  
operation. It will not cause or permit any  
activity or action thereon which would  
interfere with its use for airport  
purposes."

Current statutes do not allow the Department  
to prohibit and/or remove harmful and  
disruptive individuals from airport  
property.

Impact on the public: Proposed legislation  
to prohibit unlawful entry by individuals  
carrying weapons, explosives, or other  
harmful devices; engaging in activities that

disrupt airport operations; or failing to comply with posted signage or verbal instructions from law enforcement will ensure a safe operating environment. Prohibiting sitting, sleeping, lying, or storing, using, maintaining, or placing personal property that obstruct the airport special district public right-of-way to ensure public safety and the proper operation and maintenance of Hawaii airports.

Impact on the department and other agencies:  
The Department will collaborate with the appropriate law enforcement agencies to enforce this section and may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, HRS.

GENERAL FUND:	None requested.
PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION:	None.
OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES:	Department of Law Enforcement, other law enforcement agencies.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	July 1, 2026.