
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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- 1 (2) Specify authorized personnel and activities within the
- 2 airport special district zones;
- 3 (3) Establish procedures for issuing warnings or citations
- 4 to violators; and
- 5 (4) Provide for the placement of clear and conspicuous
- 6 signage at all entry points to the airport special
- 7 district zones.
- 8 (f) This section shall not apply to:
- 9 (1) Active airport users, broadly defined by Federal
- 10 Aviation Administration, include
- 11 airline passengers, airport employees,
- 12 concessionaires, ground transportation providers,
- 13 vendors and contractors, or prior authorization
- 14 or permits issued by the department or other
- 15 appropriate authorities;
- 16 (2) Emergency responders and law enforcement acting
- 17 within the scope of their duties; or
- 18 (3) Other individuals exempted by rules adopted
- 19 under this section."
- 20 SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the
- 21 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
- 22 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.

7

8

INTRODUCED BY:



9

BY REQUEST

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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.

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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.