



Testimony of
ALASKA AIRLINES and HAWAIIAN AIRLINES

Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 26, 2026
2:00 P.M.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2333, HD1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

The Honorable David Tarnas, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Testimony In Support of H.B. 2333, HD1, Relating to Transportation

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe and members of the committee:

Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines strongly support H.B. 2333, HD1 which authorizes the Department of Transportation to establish Airport Special District zones within airports statewide.

Hawai'i's airports are critical infrastructure. In fiscal year 2023–2024 alone, the statewide airport system accommodated more than 38 million passengers.

As a federally obligated recipient of airport grants, the State must comply with FAA Grant Assurance #19, which requires that airport facilities be operated at all times in a safe and serviceable condition and that no activity be permitted which interferes with airport purposes.

This bill provides a necessary enforcement tool to meet that obligation.

In recent years, a majority of airport-related incidents have been trespass-related. In 2023, 66.4 percent of incidents involved trespass. In 2024, that number remained over 60 percent, and in 2025, more than 57 percent of reported incidents were tied to trespass. These incidents often escalate into theft, assault, public lewdness, or property damage. This is not simply a nuisance issue. It is an operational and safety concern affecting employees, tenants, and the traveling public.

While current Hawaii Administrative Rules prohibit weapons, explosives, property damage, and obstructive conduct, enforcement is largely limited to citations and fines. The absence of meaningful criminal penalties significantly limits the State's ability to address repeat offenders and

habitual property crimes. Without stronger enforcement mechanisms, airports lack effective legal tools to prevent chronic trespass and maintain order.

H.B. 2333, HD1 authorizes the establishment of Airport Special District zones and makes it unlawful to enter or remain within those zones while carrying weapons, engaging in disruptive conduct, failing to comply with lawful instructions, or obstructing public rights-of-way by sitting, sleeping, lying down, or storing personal property.

The bill provides authority for immediate removal, fines, and other penalties, and requires coordination with law enforcement.

Importantly, it explicitly exempts active airport users, including passengers, employees, concessionaires, and authorized personnel.

Airports are secure, safety-sensitive transportation facilities. They are not public spaces. Establishing an Airport Special District strengthens operational safety, improves the passenger experience, and ensures the State has clear, enforceable tools to maintain compliance and protect federal funding eligibility.

For Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines, the safety of our employees and guest is critical. H.B. 2333, HD1 is a practical and necessary step to maintain safe, efficient, and compliant airport operations statewide.

We respectfully urge your strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



February 26, 2026

**TESTIMONY ON H.B. 2333, HD1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representatives Tarnas, Poepoe and Members of the Committees:

Airlines for America (A4A)¹, the principal trade association representing the U.S. airline industry, respectfully submits testimony in support of H.B. 2333, HD1, relating to airport special district zones.

Hawai'i's airports are essential infrastructure, serving more than 38 million passengers annually and supporting thousands of aircraft operations each month. As a geographically isolated state that relies heavily on aviation, maintaining safe, secure and efficient airport operations is critical to residents, businesses and visitors alike.

As a federally obligated airport sponsor, the Department of Transportation must comply with federal grant assurances, including Grant Assurance #19, which requires airports to be operated at all times in a safe and serviceable condition and prohibits activities that interfere with airport purposes.

H.B. 2333, HD1 appropriately provides the department with clear statutory authority to establish special airport district zones to prevent unauthorized access, obstruction and disruptive conduct.

Airports are complex operational environments, not traditional public spaces. Disruptions within terminals, roadways or operational areas can create safety risks and systemwide delays. This measure equips the department, in coordination with law enforcement, with the tools needed to protect passengers, employees and airport operations while maintaining compliance with federal obligations.

Importantly, the bill preserves access for active airport users, including passengers, employees, vendors and authorized personnel, ensuring legitimate airport activity continues uninterrupted.

H.B. 2333, HD1 is a measured and practical step to safeguard Hawai'i's aviation system.

We respectfully urge your support.

¹ A4A's members are: Alaska Air Group, Inc.; American Airlines Group Inc.; Atlas Air, Inc.; Delta Air Lines, Inc.; Federal Express Corporation; JetBlue Airways Corp.; Southwest Airlines Co.; United Airlines Holdings, Inc.; and United Parcel Service Co. Air Canada, Inc. is an associate member.

AIRLINES COMMITTEE OF HAWAII



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Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

RE: **HB 2333 HD1 – Relating to Transportation – In Support**

Thursday, February 26, 2026; 2:00 p.m.
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Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the committee:

The Airlines Committee of Hawaii (ACH), comprised of 19 signatory air carriers that underwrite the State airport system, appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2333 HD1, which authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to designate airport special district zones within airports statewide.

There have been incidents leading to unexpected and significant delays for travelers at Hawaii airports, as well as on-going issues with security, labor and overall traveler experience. HB 2333 HD1 will help address these issues by creating a legal framework for authorized activities, prohibiting unauthorized or disruptive activities and strengthening enforcement.

This bill aligns with the DOT's mission to develop and maintain a safe, secure and efficient global air transportation system.

**ACH members are Air Canada, Air New Zealand, Alaska Airlines, All Nippon Airways/Air Japan, Aloha Air Cargo, American Airlines, China Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Federal Express, Fiji Airways, Hawaiian Airlines, Japan Airlines, Korean Airlines, Philippine Airlines, Qantas Airways, Southwest Airlines, United Airlines, United Parcel Service, and WestJet.*

We ask for your favorable consideration in passing this measure to enhance the safety and security for both the traveling public and airport employees at all Hawaii airports.

Sincerely,

ACH Executive Committee



Brendan Baker



David Sellers



Elizabeth Loomis



Randall Fiertz



Richard Ide

HB-2333-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:24:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2333 HB RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.