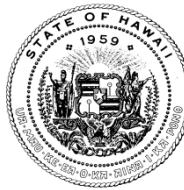


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**STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Friday, February 13, 2026  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, 411

**HB2336, HD1  
RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

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House Committee on Public Safety

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly supports H.B. 2336, HD1, which authorizes the Department of Transportation to enter into agreements with the United States Department of Defense to provide department services—such as road maintenance, improvement, relocation, or extension services—at federal military installations in Hawai'i.

This legislation strengthens the long-standing partnership between the State of Hawai'i and the U.S. military by allowing the State to assist with timely infrastructure work that supports military readiness and operational effectiveness. Given Hawai'i's central role in the Indo-Pacific region—an area that has been prioritized for national defense—ensuring that military installations are functional, resilient, and well-maintained is critically important to both state and national interests.

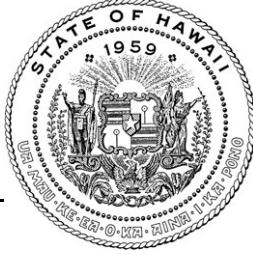
Federal military facilities play a vital role in disaster response and recovery efforts, particularly in a geographically isolated state like Hawai'i that is vulnerable to hurricanes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters. As noted in the bill, these installations serve as essential lifelines for logistics, transportation, communications, and emergency shelter during emergencies, directly supporting the health, safety, and welfare of the public.

In addition to enhancing readiness and resilience, this measure provides clear economic benefits. By allowing the Department to procure work on behalf of the Department of Defense using state procurement rules—while relying exclusively on federal funds—this bill creates opportunities for local contractors to compete for and perform federally funded work. This approach keeps more federal dollars circulating within Hawai'i's economy, builds local capacity, and supports job creation, while also enabling the military to complete needed infrastructure projects more efficiently and effectively.

The bill also ensures strong fiscal safeguards. It explicitly requires that only federal funds be used for services provided under these agreements and prohibits the use of Title 23 federal highway funds or state resources. Additionally, the Department is authorized to recover its administrative costs by charging the Department of Defense a fee for the time and resources required to procure the work, ensuring that the State is fully reimbursed for its efforts.

By improving coordination, leveraging state expertise, and facilitating timely infrastructure improvements at military installations, H.B. 2336 enhances military-state collaboration, strengthens Hawai'i's role in national defense, improves economic outcomes for local businesses, and bolsters the State's overall emergency preparedness and resilience.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



# DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
**Director**  
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY**

Friday, February 13, 2026  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 411  
**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2336**  
**RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.**

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Military and Community Relations Office of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports this measure which provides practical authority for the Hawaii Department of Transportation to enter into limited, federally funded agreements to assist with construction, maintenance, and improvement projects on federal military installations.

HB2336 allows the state to receive critical support through a partnership with the Department of Transportation and the military, improving infrastructure and further protecting Hawai'i from natural disasters. This bill will allow the Department of Transportation to directly invest in Hawai'i's protection with no additional cost to taxpayers.

In Hawai'i's isolated geography, military airfields, harbors, roadways, and logistics hubs are not only national defense assets, they are essential components of the State's disaster response network. During hurricanes, wildfires, floods, or other emergencies, these facilities serve as staging areas and transportation lifelines that directly protect our residents. Ensuring these remain fully operational is therefore a matter of public safety and statewide resilience.

This measure reflects a fiscally responsible partnership model, and by enabling coordinated, efficient project delivery and strengthening day-to-day collaboration between state and federal partners, it reinforces our shared kuleana to safeguard Hawai'i's people and infrastructure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2336 HD1 RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

House Committee on Public Safety  
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair  
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Friday, February 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM  
Conference Room 411 or via Videoconference

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports HB 2336 HD1.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

Federal military installations across Hawai'i serve as critical lifelines during natural disasters, providing logistics, transportation, communications, and emergency shelter. Their operational readiness is essential not only for national defense but also for the safety and resilience of Hawai'i's communities.

These support functions rely on Department of Defense infrastructure such as airfields, roads, harbors, and access routes that must remain fully functional and ready to support emergency response operations.

However, some military facilities require timely infrastructure improvements that the federal government has been unable to complete due to procurement constraints or capacity limitations. HB 2336 HD1 establishes a practical, government-to-government mechanism for the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) to assist with this work, without using state funds or drawing from federal highway funds, while also creating additional contracting opportunities for local companies and keeping economic benefits in the state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.