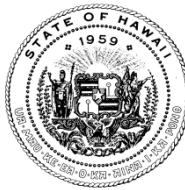


LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

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

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:30 AM
State Capitol, 430

HB2336

RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly supports H.B. 2336, 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.

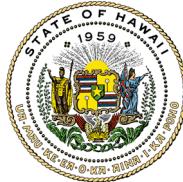
In addition to enhancing readiness and resilience, this measure provides clear economic benefits. By allowing the Department to procure work on behalf of the Department of Defense using state procurement rules—while relying exclusively on federal funds—this bill creates opportunities for local contractors 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.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
KAHU HO'OMALU PŌULIA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUĀ
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2336,
FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

February 5, 2026

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice-Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) respectfully submits this testimony in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 2336, which authorizes the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (DOT) to enter into agreements with the United States Department of Defense (DoD) for the provision of services at federal military installations. This initiative is crucial for several reasons:

- Allowing DoD and DOT to enter into such agreements will enable necessary improvements and public access, such as the Kolekole Pass, which is an initiative that enhances the quality of life for residents and ensures safer routes during crises.
- By leveraging federal resources, the state can alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with infrastructure and service provision.
- Improved access and resources can lead to better emergency response capabilities.

House Bill 2336 offers a significant opportunity to streamline funding efforts for both the DOT and DoD. This will only enhance transportation services at military installations, improve safety, and make effective use of federal resources.

HIEMA stands in support of this measure and encourages its passage to benefit both state residents and military personnel, as this demonstrates a proactive step in safeguarding Hawai'i's communities and improving our ability to respond effectively to disasters. We are committed to supporting initiatives that enhance resiliency in Hawai'i, provided they do not adversely impact the Governor's Executive budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 2336.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 430
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2336
RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, 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 RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

House Committee on Transportation
Rep. Darius K. Kila, Chair
Rep. Tyson K. Miyake, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 430 or via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Kila, Vice Chair Miyake, and Members of the Committee:

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

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 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.