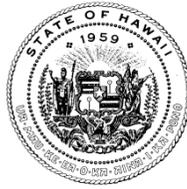


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



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

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CURT T. OTAGURO  
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

Thursday, February 26, 2026  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, 325

**HB2333, HD1  
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports HB2333, HD 1, with amendments. The Department has attached a proposed HD 2 reflecting our recommended amendments for the Committee's consideration.

This measure strengthens the Department's ability to maintain safe, secure, and efficiently operating airport environments statewide by authorizing the establishment of airport special districts.

Hawai'i's airports are critical infrastructure that serve as gateways for residents, visitors, commerce, and emergency response. The Department's vision is to ensure that airport facilities remain safe, welcoming, and fully operational for individuals who are traveling, conducting business, working, or otherwise engaged in legitimate airport-related activities. Maintaining that environment requires clear statutory authority to address conduct that disrupts operations or compromises safety.

Over the past three years, trespass-related incidents have accounted for approximately 60 percent of reported airport security cases. Many of these incidents escalate into theft, assault, property damage, public health hazards, and other criminal activity. In 2025 alone, 198 contacts were made involving individuals loitering or remaining on airport property without a lawful or operational purpose. These repeated incidents strain law enforcement resources and create avoidable risks for passengers, employees, and airport tenants.

Current statutes do not sufficiently align unlawful conduct with effective enforcement mechanisms to address ongoing issues related to unauthorized presence or disruptive behavior within airport operational areas. Existing penalties are limited and have not proven to be an adequate deterrent to repeat violations, resulting in recurring safety and operational challenges.

HB2333 provides a clearer legal framework by authorizing the establishment of airport special districts. These districts would allow the Department to define boundaries, clarify authorized activities, and prohibit conduct that interferes with airport operations. The measure supports consistent and enforceable action to address unauthorized entry, disruptive behavior, and activities that compromise safety.

The Department's proposed HD 2 amendments further refine the bill to ensure clarity, workability, and alignment with operational realities. The amendments help ensure the measure is narrowly tailored to address safety and operational concerns while preserving appropriate safeguards.

Importantly, the measure does not restrict legitimate airport users. Individuals traveling, conducting business, working at the airport, providing services, responding to emergencies, or otherwise engaged in authorized activities would remain unaffected. Rather, the bill ensures that airport property is preserved for its intended public transportation purposes and that conduct unrelated to those purposes does not impair safe and efficient operations.

By strengthening the Department's ability to manage airport environments proactively, HB2333, as amended in the proposed HD 2, supports safe operations, enhances the passenger experience, protects employees and tenants, and reinforces public confidence in Hawai'i's aviation system.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure with amendments.

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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

**.B. NO.**           

1 standards as may be required or prescribed by applicable  
2 Federal, state, and local agencies for maintenance and  
3 operation. It will not cause or permit any activity or action  
4 thereon which would interfere with its use for airport  
5 purposes."

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

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

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

.B. NO.

1 boundaries of each airport special district identified in  
2 Airport Layout Plans (ALP) submitted to and approved by the  
3 Federal Aviation Administration.

4 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person within an airport  
5 special district to violate any section of this chapter, or any  
6 of the rules or orders issued thereto and duly adopted or served  
7 under Chapter 19-14, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

8 (c) Violators of this section shall be subject to  
9 immediate removal from the airport special district, fines, and  
10 other penalties as provided under this chapter.

11 (d) The department shall collaborate with the appropriate  
12 law enforcement agencies to enforce this section and may adopt  
13 rules pursuant to chapter 91, including but not limited to:

14 (1) Provide for the placement of clear and conspicuous  
15 signage at all entry points to the airport special  
16 districts.

17 SECTION 3. Section 261-21, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 " **§261-21 Penalties.** (a) Except as provided in  
20 subsection (c), [~~any~~] a person violating any section of this  
21 chapter, or any of the rules or orders issued pursuant thereto  
22 and duly adopted or served, for which no penalty is specifically

.B. NO.          

1 prescribed, shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor, provided  
2 that [~~shall be guilty of a violation subject to the following~~  
3 ~~penalties~~]:

4       (1) When safety measures or Federal Aviation  
5           Administration acceptable hangar use practices are  
6           violated, the person shall be subject to a fine not to  
7           exceed \$500; or

8       (2) When the licensing and regulation of persons engaged  
9           in commercial activities at public airports is  
10          involved, the person shall be subject to a fine not to  
11          exceed \$500.

12       (b) Except as provided in subsection (c), any person  
13          violating any rule relating to motor vehicles and traffic  
14          control or the operation of any equipment or motor vehicle in or  
15          on the operational area of the airport shall be guilty of an  
16          offense as defined under the Penal Code and be fined not more  
17          than \$500.

18       (c) Any person violating any rule relating to parking of  
19          motor vehicles or equipment at a public airport, including  
20          baggage carts, dollies, and other similar devices, shall have  
21          committed a traffic infraction as set forth in chapter 291D, the



# \_\_\_\_.B. NO.\_\_\_\_

**Report Title:**

DOT; Airport; Airport Special District

**Description:**

Authorizes the Department of Transportation to designate airport special districts within airports statewide. Adds a new HRS section to help define boundaries and references HAR Chapter 19-14 for unlawful activities and associated penalties. 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.*



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)<sup>1</sup>, 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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



Daniel K. Inouye International Airport  
Terminal 1, Third Floor  
300 Rodgers Blvd., #62  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-1832  
Phone (808) 838-0011  
Fax (808) 838-0231

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.  
Conference room 325

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

## **TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

2:00 PM Thursday February 26, 2026  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

### **HB 2333 HD1**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

Blind Vendors Ohana is operating a concession business in the Honolulu Airport. We respectfully submit testimony in support of HB 2333 HD1.

As a blind small business, we rely on a safe, clearly regulated, and enforceable airport environment to operate independently and serve the traveling public. Airports are complex and high-traffic facilities. Clear authority for the Department of Transportation to define restricted zones and enforce rules is essential for safety and order.

We strongly support the bill's provisions that prohibit weapons, explosives, and other harmful devices within airport special district zones. The presence of firearms or other dangerous devices in sensitive airport areas raises serious safety concerns for employees, vendors, and passengers. Clear statutory authority strengthens enforcement and removes ambiguity.

The bill also makes it unlawful to obstruct airport public right-of-way areas by sitting, sleeping, lying down, or storing property. We employ many individuals who navigate the airport without sight, and who on mobility assistance devices. They require clear, unobstructed pathways to move safely and independently throughout the airport. Blocked walkways create real safety risks and limit their ability to move independently. These obstructions also discourage customers from accessing concession businesses.

Importantly, this measure gives DOT and law enforcement clear, enforceable authority to remove violators, issue citations, and maintain airport facilities in a safe and serviceable condition. At the same time, it appropriately protects active airport users, including concessionaires and vendors, so that we may continue operating without disruption.

Airports are critical infrastructure for Hawai'i. Small businesses like ours depend on safety, accessibility, and consistent enforcement.

We respectfully ask you to pass HB 2333 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2333-HD-1**

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

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

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2333 HB RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.