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GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU  
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Wednesday, April 1, 2026  
10:30 AM  
State Capitol, 016

**HB2333, HD2  
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Judiciary

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) strong support of House Bill 2333, HD2, which authorizes the Department of Transportation to designate airport special districts within airports statewide and increases penalties for certain aeronautics law violations by reclassifying them from civil violations to petty misdemeanors.

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 HD2 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.

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 HD2, 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.

## 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

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary

RE: **HB 2333 HD2 – Relating to Transportation – In Support**  
Wednesday, April 1, 2026; 10:30 a.m.  
Conference room 016

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard 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 HD2, which authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to designate airport special districts within airports statewide. It also increases penalties for certain aeronautics law violations by reclassifying them from civil violations to petty misdemeanors.

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 HD2 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 of  
**ALASKA AIRLINES and HAWAIIAN AIRLINES**

Before the Senate Committee on  
**Judiciary**

**Wednesday, April 1, 2026**  
**10:30 a.m.**  
**Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 016**

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL 2333, HD2**  
**RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair of the Committee on Judiciary  
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

**Re: Testimony In Support of H.B. 2333, HD2, Relating to Transportation**

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and members of the committee:

Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines strongly support H.B. 2333, HD2 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, HD2 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, HD2 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.



**April 1, 2026**

**TESTIMONY ON H.B. 2333, HD2  
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Conference Room 016  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senators Rhoads, Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

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, HD2, 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, HD2 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, HD2 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.

## **TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

10:30 AM Wednesday, April 1, 2026  
Conference Room 016 & Video Conference

### **HB 2333 HD2**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 HD2.

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 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.