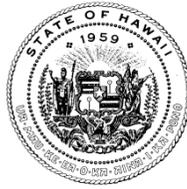


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Thursday, March 5, 2026
2:00 AM
State Capitol, 308

HB2336, HD1
RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

House Committee on Finance

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.