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

February 17, 2026
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, RM 229



**S.B. 3153
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly supports S.B. No. 3153, Relating to Transportation. This measure strengthens the Department's ability to maintain safe, secure, and efficiently operating airport environments statewide by authorizing the establishment of airport special district zones.

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

Over the past three years, trespass-related incidents have accounted for approximately 60% 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 tenants.

Current statutes do not provide sufficient clarity or enforcement tools to address ongoing issues related to unauthorized presence or disruptive conduct within airport operational areas. Existing penalties are limited and do not adequately deter repeat violations. As a result, individuals may return repeatedly, creating continued safety and operational challenges.

SB 3153 provides a clear and practical legal framework by authorizing the establishment of airport special district zones. These zones allow the Department to define boundaries, clarify authorized activities, and prohibit conduct that interferes with airport operations. The bill enables law enforcement and airport personnel to address

unauthorized entry, disruptive behavior, or activities that compromise safety in a consistent and enforceable manner.

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 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, SB3153 supports safe operations, enhances the passenger experience, protects employees and tenants, and reinforces public confidence in Hawai'i's aviation system.

The Department respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

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

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 Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair
Committee on Transportation

RE: **SB 3153 – Relating to Transportation – In Support**
Tuesday, February 17, 2026; 3:00 p.m.
Conference room 229

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante 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 SB 3153, which authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to designate airport special district zones within airports statewide, and adds a new HRS section to help prevent unauthorized access and enhance security.

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. SB 3153 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 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
TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
3:00 P.M.
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3153
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair of the Committee on Transportation
The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair of the Committee on Transportation
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation

Re: Testimony In Support of S.B. 3153, Relating to Transportation

Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante and members of the committee:

Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines strongly support S.B. 3153, 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.

S.B. 3153 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 guests is critical. S.B. 3153 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 17, 2026

**TESTIMONY ON S.B. 3153
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair

Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Senators Inouye, Elefante and Members of the Committees:

Airlines for America (A4A)¹, the principal trade association representing the U.S. airline industry, respectfully submits testimony in support of S.B. 3153, 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.

S.B. 3153 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.

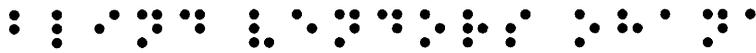
Importantly, the bill preserves access for active airport users, including passengers, employees, vendors and authorized personnel, ensuring legitimate airport activity continues uninterrupted.

S.B. 3153 is a measured and practical step to safeguard Hawai'i's aviation system.

We respectfully urge your support.

¹ 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.

BLIND VENDORS OHANA, INC.



300 RODGERS BLVD #56
HONOLULU, HI 96819-1832

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TESTIMONY TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

3:00 PM Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

SB 3153

LATE

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee,

Blind Vendors Ohana is operating a concession business in the Honolulu Airport. We respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 3153.

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 SB 3153.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Honorable Lorraine Takemoto
Chair, Committee on Transportation
Hawaii State Senate
State Capitol Building

Room 229, February 17, 2026

Re: SB 3153 – Relating To Transportation

Dear Chair Inouye and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is James Stone writing to you as an individual in strong support of this bill.

It's important that our State airports meet our grant assurances and the minimum standards as applicable by federal, state and local agencies. Our Hawaii Department of Transportation should have rights to ensure safe operations of our airports including the traveling public and airport employees.

I urge you to please support this bill, it's forward movement and approval. Thank you.

Respectfully yours, James Stone, 900 Fort Street Mall, Suite 920,
Honolulu, HI 96813. Telephone : 808-2237810.