

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

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, 229

SB3156
RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly supports S.B.3156, 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, S.B. 3156 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.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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Statement of
LAURIE MCALLISTER MOORE
Executive Director
Military and Community Relations Office
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Tuesday, February 17, 2026
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB3156
RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, 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.

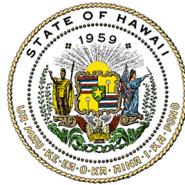
SB3156 allows the state to receive critical support through a partnership with the Department of Transportation and the military, improving infrastructure and further protecting Hawai'i from natural disasters. This bill will allow the Department of Transportation to directly invest in Hawai'i's protection 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.

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 PŪULIA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3156,
RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

February 17, 2026

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA) respectfully submits this testimony in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 3156, 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.

Senate Bill 3156 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 Senate Bill 3156.

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



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3156
RELATING TO FEDERAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS**

Senate Committee on Transportation
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 229 or via Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") supports SB 3156.

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. SB 3156 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.