

The Senate

STATE CAPITOL HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Media Advisory February 7, 2013 Media Contact: Caroline Julian-Freitas/586-6261

Committee Hears Bill that will Make Interisland Travel More Affordable for Local Consumers

Honolulu—The Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection will be hearing Senate Bill 451 tomorrow, **Friday, February 8 at 9 a.m. in the State Capitol's room 229**.

The bill puts the owners of air carriers under the purview of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The measure would essentially have the PUC regulate air fares and make it more affordable for local consumers. Right now, air carriers are exempt from regulation of the PUC.

Senator Malama Solomon, introducer of the bill, explains why residents should submit testimony for the bill.

"Local residents have limited options when it comes to interisland travel. Due to the fact that Hawaii's residents have very few options, the State needs to assure that local families have affordable airfare rates for family visits and emergencies," said Senator Malama Solomon, who represents District 4, Hilo, Hamakua, Kohala, Waimea, Waikoloa, Kona.

Testimony may be emailed if less than 5 pages in length, to the Committee at <u>CPNTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov</u>. Please indicate the measure, date and time of the hearing.

To view the hearing notice: <u>http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2013/hearingnotices/HEARING_CPN_02-08-13_.HTM</u>