
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REVIEW THE
STATE'S LANDING FEES AND DETERMINE WHETHER THE LANDING FEES
AT STATE AIRPORTS SHOULD BE INCREASED.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is an island state dependent upon air
2 travel when commuting between islands and the continental United
3 States; and
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5 WHEREAS, Hawaii's airports play a pivotal role in servicing
6 our most critical economic driving force, tourism, because as
7 the gateways to the islands, they serve as a tourist's first and
8 last Hawaiian experience; and
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10 WHEREAS, with infrastructure dating to the 1970s and
11 earlier, many facilities at Hawaii's airports are outdated and
12 in need of major upgrades or wholesale change to return the
13 essence of these airports to a Hawaiian "sense of place"; and
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15 WHEREAS, dissatisfaction and complaints about the airport
16 system, including a lack of eating and shopping establishments,
17 general lack of comfort, and a lack of the "aloha spirit" have
18 been on the rise, especially among Japanese and European
19 visitors; and
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21 WHEREAS, although the state Department of Transportation
22 (DOT) has had ambitious plans for multimillion dollar upgrades
23 of airport facilities in the past, many of these plans were cut
24 short due to the economic downturn Hawaii faced in the 1990s,
25 the effects of the first Gulf War, and the events of September
26 11th; and
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28 WHEREAS, while DOT officials have begun addressing the
29 problems by spending more than \$30,000,000 this year on
30 maintenance and other improvements to Honolulu International
31 Airport, including better wayfaring signs inside and out of the
32 terminal, more shopping areas, improved air conditioning in the



1 main Honolulu terminal, a new \$5,000,000 security checkpoint,
2 expanded retail opportunities, and a new food court and bar
3 complex near the gates where international flights arrive, much
4 more needs to be done; and

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6 WHEREAS, landing fees are one means of generating revenues
7 for improvements to the state airport system; and

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9 WHEREAS, while the authority to collect landing fees is
10 statutorily established, the formula used for calculating
11 landing fees is established by the administrative rules of DOT;
12 and

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14 WHEREAS, the Director of DOT has been given the authority
15 and flexibility to adjust landing fees, as long as the rates,
16 rentals, fees, and charges set forth by the Director are at
17 least sufficient to meet the expenditures of the statewide
18 system of airports, including expenditures for capital
19 improvement projects approved by the Legislature; and

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21 WHEREAS, the last adjustment made to the airport landing
22 fees by DOT was in 1998; now, therefore,

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24 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
25 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
26 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that DOT is requested to review
27 the State's landing fees and determine whether these fees should
28 be increased; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DOT is requested to report its
31 findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than
32 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
33 2007; and

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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
36 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of the
37 Department of Transportation.

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40 OFFERED BY:

Sybil B. Berg
MAR 15 2006

