
HOUSE 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11 earlier, many facilities at Hawaii's airports are outdated and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
33 main Honolulu terminal, a new \$5,000,000 security checkpoint,
34 expanded retail opportunities, and a new food court and bar



