

MAR 15 2006

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DETERMINE THE
FEASIBILITY OF RETURNING THE KAPALUA-WEST MAUI AIRPORT TO
PRIVATE OPERATION.

1 WHEREAS, the Kapalua-West Maui Airport was built in 1987 by
2 Hawaiian Airlines on land leased from Maui Land and Pineapple
3 Company; and
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5 WHEREAS, the County of Maui imposed numerous restrictions
6 in the zoning of the fifty-acre airport parcel, including
7 restricting the length of the runway to three thousand feet,
8 banning helicopters and jet aircraft, limiting flights to day-
9 time only, and limiting the total number of flights daily to
10 seventy; and
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12 WHEREAS, in 1992 the State acquired the Kapalua-West Maui
13 Airport, using only state funds to acquire the facility, thereby
14 allowing the continuation of the restrictions on the operation
15 of the facility; and
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17 WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration indicated, at
18 the time of acquisition, that if the State in the future sought
19 federal grants for the Kapalua-West Maui Airport, the operation
20 of the airport, would then have to comply with federal rules to
21 make the airport available to all public uses "on fair and
22 reasonable terms and without discrimination, to all types,
23 kinds, and classes of aeronautical uses"; and
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25 WHEREAS, in 2002, when the State sought to close or
26 privatize the Kapalua-West Maui Airport along with four other
27 commuter airports because of the decrease in airport revenues,
28 the Federal Aviation Administration declared that the State
29 cannot "close or dispose of an airport without the concurrence
30 of the Federal Aviation Administration Association administrator
31 of airports", because of the terms the State agreed to when
32 accepting federal funds; and
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