
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS TO COLLABORATE AND COOPERATE TO REACH A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE SOLUTION OVER FIRE INSPECTION RESPONSIBILITIES AT THE HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND OTHER STATE AIRPORTS.

1 WHEREAS, the state and county fire departments have
2 jurisdiction over state-owned airport facilities; and
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4 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has Aircraft
5 Rescue and Firefighting crews stationed at airports to carry out
6 responsibilities pursuant to Title 14, C.F.R. part 139; and
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8 WHEREAS, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting crews located at
9 airports are not trained and do not have the necessary staff to
10 conduct fire inspections of the airport area; and
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12 WHEREAS, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting crews stationed
13 at airports specialize in fighting fires at state airports and
14 do not conduct fire inspections at the state airports, and that
15 responsibility has been relegated to county fire departments;
16 and
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18 WHEREAS, section 261-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating
19 to aeronautics, defines "airport" as any area of land or water
20 which is used, or intended for use, for the landing and takeoff
21 of aircraft, and any appurtenant areas which are used, or
22 intended for use, for airport buildings or other airport
23 facilities or rights-of-way, including approaches, together with
24 all airport buildings and facilities located thereon; and
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26 WHEREAS, the Honolulu International Airport is a vast area
27 that encompasses much more than the actual airport facilities
28 and includes surrounding buildings and warehouses, which take
29 one year to inspect on an intermittent basis according to the
30 Honolulu Fire Department; and
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32 WHEREAS, current law requires the county fire chief to
33 conduct fire inspections of state-owned buildings and facilities



1 pursuant to sections 132-5 and 132-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, section 132-6 specifically requires the State to
5 conduct fire and safety inspections at all state-owned airport
6 facilities at least once a year; and

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8 WHEREAS, Senate Standing Committee Report No. 2964 of the
9 Senate Committee on Transportation and Intergovernmental Affairs
10 on H.B. No. 2872 which enacted the above amendment to section
11 132-6 (Act 282, Session Laws of Hawaii 1998), stated in
12 pertinent part:

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14 [Y]our Committee is aware of the difficulty county
15 fire departments are experiencing in attempting to
16 conduct annual fire inspections at all county, state,
17 and private facilities with their limited resources.

18
19 Your Committee discovered during its discussions with
20 the Department of Transportation and the Fire
21 Department of the City and County of Honolulu, that
22 the State has personnel who are qualified to conduct
23 fire inspections at airport facilities;

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25 and

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27 WHEREAS, the public safety requires that all state airports
28 be inspected by knowledgeable fire inspectors, whether state or
29 county firefighters; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation and the county
32 fire departments should work out an agreement to conduct fire
33 inspections of airport facilities, particularly the Honolulu
34 International Airport, notwithstanding the current law; now,
35 therefore,

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37 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
38 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006,
39 that the Department of Transportation and Honolulu Fire
40 Department collaborate and cooperate to reach a mutually
41 agreeable solution to fire inspection responsibilities at the
42 Honolulu International Airport and other state airports; and
43



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
2 Transportation and the county fire chiefs work on a plan for the
3 efficient and effective fire inspection of all airport
4 facilities; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
7 Transportation report to the Legislature no later than twenty
8 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2007 on
9 the progress towards reaching a solution or agreement on fire
10 inspection responsibilities at Honolulu International Airport
11 and other state airports; and

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13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Transportation, the
15 Governor, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the
16 Mayor of Maui County, the Mayor of Hawaii County, the Mayor of
17 Kauai County, the State Fire Council, the Fire Chief of
18 Honolulu, the Fire Chief of Hawaii County, the Fire Chief of
19 Kauai County, and the Fire Chief of Maui County.

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OFFERED BY: 

