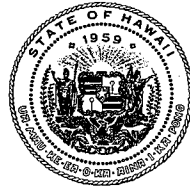


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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 7, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 2340

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TAXATION
COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The Department of Transportation supports the intent of this bill, provided that it does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

We support the State's efforts to obtain a commercial space transportation license from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to enable "spaceplanes" to take off and land at commercial airports in Hawaii.

For the past two years, our department has been involved in discussions with the Department of Business, Economic Development, & Tourism and representatives from Rocketplane Global to consider the feasibility of supporting spaceplane operations at Honolulu International Airport, Kalaeloa Airport, and Kona International Airport at Keahole. We believe these airports have the physical capacity to support spaceplane operations. It should be noted that a commercial space transportation license from the FAA will be required to certify that these operations can be conducted safely and without negative environmental impacts at our airports.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.