

JAN 29 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AIRPORT IN
PUNA.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the district of Puna
2 needs a new small airport to service residents, particularly
3 those living south of the anticipated lava flows. The
4 likelihood of lava crossing Highway 130 would result in a large
5 part of the Puna district population being cut off from supplies
6 and services, which would be detrimental to the community. An
7 airstrip could be constructed in less than thirty days, allowing
8 for the transportation of supplies and people if the road
9 becomes obstructed by the lava.

10 Geographically Puna is a huge district, just slightly
11 smaller than the island of Kauai. A few factors make access to
12 Puna challenging, specifically Puna has an extensive network of
13 lava tubes creating terrain that is too risky for the
14 construction of roads; therefore, road infrastructure cannot be
15 developed to accommodate efficient transportation. The closest
16 airport to Puna is Hilo airport, a trip that takes approximately



1 six to eight hours round trip from South Puna and requires a
2 great amount of fuel. Whether or not Puna is cut off by lava,
3 Puna needs an airport in order to more efficiently transport
4 supplies.

5 Furthermore, Puna is the fastest growing district in the
6 county of Hawaii, with a population of 45,326, according to the
7 2010 United States census, and is expected to grow to
8 approximately 75,000 by 2030. Puna is also becoming
9 increasingly popular as a tourist attraction as it is near
10 Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and is a world renowned
11 destination for ecotourism and personal development
12 opportunities.

13 The purpose of this Act is to authorize an appropriation
14 for construction of a small airport in South Puna.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
18 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
19 year 2016-2017 for construction of a small airport in South Puna
20 due to the threat of inaccessibility from lava flow..



S.B. NO. 1257

Report Title:

Airport; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for construction of a small airport in South Puna due to the threat of inaccessibility from lava flow.

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