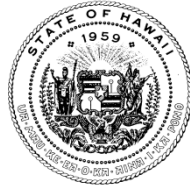


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 10, 2016
10:00 AM
House Conference Room 309

H.B. 1736
RELATING TO THE KONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** H.B. 1736 which recognizes community support to rename their airport as the Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keahole

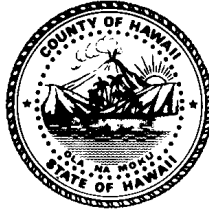
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Karen Eoff
Council Member
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280
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Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 8, 2016

House Committee on Transportation
Representative Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Matthew S. LoPresti, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony In Support of HB1736; Relating to the Kona International Airport
Hearing Date and Time: February 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Committee:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, our support for the above referenced bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

House Bill 1736 has been introduced to rename the Kona International Airport at Keāhole to be officially known as the Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keāhole.

The Ellison S. Onizuka Space Center, located at the Kona Airport has been a beacon of light out of an otherwise tragic event, educating thousands of visitors each year, sharing information and providing inspiration to the children of the future in memory of astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka. The center is scheduled to close next month. This year is also the 30th anniversary of the loss of his life in the Challenger Space Shuttle tragedy.

I support the concept of honoring Colonel Ellison S. Onizuka, especially in light of the approaching closure of the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Space.

It is incumbent upon me to comment that it has been the practice of naming airports in Hawai'i for location rather than for an individual. However, in this case, I would welcome a discussion on how to best incorporate both the opportunity to honor a local hero as well as preserve the importance of the Kona location in the name. At the very least, we should consider naming the new terminal after Ellison S. Onizuka and design it in a way to provide a home for the many artifacts and exhibits that are at the Space Center.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Vice Chair,
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:11 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: madeinkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1736 on Feb 10, 2016 10:00AM

HB1736

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for TRN on Feb 10, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monico K. Galiato	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of this bill HB1736. I feel that Ellison Onizuka is an important part of our history and heritage here in Kona. Changing the name of the airport will help to preserve the history and honor the memories and impact this man has made on and for our community.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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lopresti2 - Jasmine

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:14 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: chante_kalai@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1736 on Feb 10, 2016 10:00AM*

HB1736

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for TRN on Feb 10, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chante	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: Nancy Tashima <tashima@aloha.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:07 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB1736

Testimony in Support of HB1736

Hawaii State House of Representatives

My name is Nancy C. Tashima and I strongly support the renaming of our local airport to the Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport at Keahole.

For nearly 47 years, I have been educating youngsters and adults about the space program as a science teacher at Konawaena High School and as the Educational Curator of the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Space Center. I strongly believe that the renaming of our airport is important and appropriate for several reasons:

1. Ellison Onizuka is recognized by our local community for his many accomplishments related to aviation and space research. Adding his name to our airport would confirm the State of Hawaii and County of Hawaii's recognition and acknowledgement of his many scientific achievements.
2. Since Ellison Onizuka was born here in Kona he is considered a hero and outstanding role model for our Hawaii Island children. Naming the airport in his memory would help to further Ellison's inspirational legacy for our youngsters as well as our future generations.
3. Ellison Onizuka worked at our airport during his teen years before his distinguished careers as a test pilot instructor in the US Air Force and NASA astronaut and it is a befitting gesture and relevant tribute to have the airport bear his name.
5. Ellison Onizuka has the distinction of being the first astronaut from Hawaii and also the first Asian-American to fly in space. These accomplishments will lead the way for others from Hawaii to follow in his path. Thusly, the naming of our airport for him is a way of recognizing these remarkable achievements and encouraging others to excel as he did.
6. As a member of the Space Shuttle Challenger crew, Ellison Onizuka has international recognition and prominence having an asteroid, lunar crater, and recently discovered mountains of Pluto named for him. Consequently, it is appropriate to add his name to our airport since all travelers will immediately recognize and relate to it with respect and honor.
7. Although it has been thirty years since Ellison Onizuka perished on the Space Shuttle Challenger, his name and enduring legacy remain as imprints in the minds and hearts of Americans and in all U.S. Passports, as well. Therefore, having our airport bear his name far into the future is a heartfelt honor to bestow upon the memory of our beloved Kona hero.

For these reasons, I urge you to support the renaming of the Kona International Airport at Keahole to the ELLISON ONIZUKA KONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AT KEAHOLE.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy C. Tashima

Sent from my iPad