



AIRPORT CONCESSIONAIRES COMMITTEE

Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture
Hawaii State Senate

Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Committee on Transportation and Energy
Hawaii State Senate

Room 229 3:05 p.m.

February 16, 2016

Re: SB 2936 - Relating to Land Dispositions

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, and Honorable Joint Committee Members:

My name is Peter Fithian and I am the Chair of the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee of the Airports Concessionaires Committee.

Our Committee represents the majority of the concession operators at the public airports throughout the State of Hawaii. Members of our group contribute about 50% of the operating revenues of the airports along with the airlines who also contribute about 50%.

Our Committee strongly supports this bill.

Recently it has been the experience of one or more of our members that after months of analysis, negotiation and reaching agreements with Hawaii's Department of Transportation (DOT) the DLNR now questions the negotiations and wants to re-visit the details of the negotiations. Thus, negotiate all over again?

There have been at least 2 instances where agreements negotiated would have been permanently lost due to the DLNR's probing and delays.

Further, the DLNR has sought to impose conditions on its approvals not imposed by the DOT and in our opinion contrary to federal laws which governs the airports.

Still further, at least one member of the DLNR Board has questioned the authority granted by the Legislature to the DOT to reach agreements to fast-track airport improvements.

DLNR in our opinion has gone beyond its appropriate role and the law at least as to DOT matters need to be clarified. We thank you for allowing us to testify.