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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the emergence and  
2 development of unmanned aerial systems, including unmanned  
3 aerial vehicles that are commonly referred to as "drones",  
4 provide numerous benefits for the people of Hawaii on many  
5 fronts. Unmanned aerial systems provide the State and the  
6 public with next-generation tools and technologies in aerial  
7 reconnaissance and surveying. These tools can be used for a  
8 multitude of beneficial purposes, including new economic  
9 opportunities in technology, new tools to help law enforcement  
10 and emergency personnel with their critical duties, and  
11 additional means for state agencies and private sector entities  
12 to carry out functions at a lower cost and with less danger to  
13 their employees.

14       The legislature further finds that at the national level,  
15 standards controlling unmanned aerial system design, operation,  
16 and regulation are beginning to emerge cohesively through the  
17 efforts of industry, professional engineering societies, the



1 United States Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation  
2 Administration, and the White House Office of Science and  
3 Technology Policy. Hawaii is fortunate to have direct contact  
4 with those efforts and the information obtained therefrom is  
5 very useful in helping the legislature to understand these  
6 issues and formulate potential action. Within this context, the  
7 legislature finds that the State has applied to serve as a "Lead  
8 Applicant" in the Federal Aviation Administration's "Unmanned  
9 Aircraft Systems Integration Pilot Program", through which the  
10 Federal Aviation Administration seeks to apply this emergent  
11 technology locally across the spectrum of Hawaii's economy,  
12 infrastructure, and society.

13 The legislature recognizes that because of the rapidly  
14 changing landscape of federal regulation and technology, the  
15 establishment of a permanent unmanned aerial systems task force  
16 is essential to ensure that the State can quickly react to any  
17 changes in federal law or technology. Specifically, the  
18 legislature intends, by the establishment of this permanent task  
19 force, to ensure that vital stakeholders and the public can  
20 respond to the various changes in regulation and technology as  
21 they occur, rather than endlessly study unmanned aerial system



1 issues. A permanent task force on unmanned aerial systems would  
2 also allow Hawaii to coordinate with the permanent task forces  
3 or working groups of other states to better harmonize state laws  
4 and create a united front to the federal government when  
5 suggesting amendments to federal law.

6 By adopting a permanent task force as other states have  
7 done, Hawaii can not only remain on the forefront of unmanned  
8 aerial systems regulation and promotion, but can also respond to  
9 a potential repeal of federal regulations in this area.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a  
11 permanent task force on unmanned aerial systems.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 27, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended  
13 by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read  
14 as follows:

15 "PART

16 PERMANENT TASK FORCE ON UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

17 §27- Permanent task force on unmanned aerial systems;  
18 establishment. (a) There is established the permanent task  
19 force on unmanned aerial systems within the office of the  
20 lieutenant governor for administrative purposes only. The task  
21 force shall consist of the following members:



- (1) The unmanned aerial systems program director of the applied research laboratory of the University of Hawaii, who shall serve as chair;
- (2) The director of transportation or the director's designee;
- (3) The director of business, economic development, and tourism or the director's designee;
- (4) The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources or the chairperson's designee;
- (5) The chairperson of the board of agriculture or the chairperson's designee;
- (6) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;
- (7) Three members appointed by the Hawaii state association of counties, including:
  - (A) One member representing fire and emergency medical services personnel;
  - (B) One member representing a county police department; and
  - (C) One member representing a county department of planning and permitting;



1 provided that at least one person appointed pursuant  
2 to this paragraph shall be from a county with a  
3 population of less than five hundred thousand;

4 (8) One member, representing a privacy advocacy group, to  
5 be appointed by the governor;

6 (9) One member, representing the commercial unmanned  
7 aerial systems industry, to be appointed by the  
8 speaker of the house of representatives; and

9 (10) One member, representing the motion picture, film, and  
10 television industry, to be appointed by the president  
11 of the senate.

12 (b) Task force members shall be appointed within ninety  
13 days of the effective date of this Act. The task force shall  
14 hold its initial meeting within thirty days of the date on which  
15 all members have been appointed.

16 (c) The task force shall study and make recommendations  
17 for the regulation of the operation and use of unmanned aerial  
18 systems, commonly referred to as drones, within the State. As  
19 part of the study, the task force shall consider:

20 (1) Use of unmanned aerial systems by public agencies,  
21 commercial entities, and private persons;



(2) Landowner and privacy rights;

(3) Existing federal laws and regulations regarding  
unmanned aerial systems;

(4) Laws enacted by other states regarding the use and  
operation of unmanned aerial systems;

(5) General rules, regulations, and safe practices for the  
operation of unmanned aerial systems;

(6) Permitting systems for unmanned aerial vehicle use;  
and

(7) Any other issue deemed necessary by the task force.

(d) Members of the task force shall serve without  
compensation.

(e) No member of the task force shall be made subject to  
chapter 84 solely because of that member's participation as a  
member of the task force.

(f) Whenever practical, the task force shall work in  
collaboration with task forces or working groups on unmanned  
aerial systems and unmanned aerial vehicles of other states.

(g) Whenever practical, the task force shall work in  
collaboration with federal entities on unmanned aerial system  
policies and recommendations.



§27- Reports. The permanent task force on unmanned  
 aerial systems shall submit a report of its findings and  
 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 each regular session, beginning with the regular session of  
 2019. The report shall also include any information or data  
 resulting from the task force's collaborative efforts with  
 federal entities and other states."

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY:

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# H.B. NO. 2655

**Report Title:**

Permanent Task Force on Unmanned Aerial Systems; Lieutenant Governor

**Description:**

Creates a permanent task force on unmanned aerial systems, to be attached to the Office of the Lieutenant Governor for administrative purposes. Requires the task force to provide annual reports to the Legislature.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

