
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AIRFIELDS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Kawaihapai Airfield,
2 also known as Dillingham Airfield, has been a vital economic and
3 tourism contributor to the economy of Oahu's north shore. In
4 2019, the airfield had 33,805 aircraft operations, more than
5 Kapalua, Lanai, and Kalaupapa regional airports combined. The
6 legislature further finds that the small business tenants at
7 Kawaihapai Airfield generate over \$12,000,000 in yearly revenues
8 and employ over one hundred and thirty people, which include
9 flight instructors, pilots, aircraft maintenance personnel, tour
10 operators, office staff, and more.

11 The legislature also finds that Kawaihapai Airfield is
12 recognized around the world as a premier recreational skydiving
13 and gliding destination. For example, the Travel Channel listed
14 Kawaihapai Airfield as one of the best places in the world to
15 skydive. The travel website TripAdvisor recognized Paradise Air
16 Hang Gliding, a tenant at Kawaihapai Airfield, as one of the top
17 ten per cent of attractions worldwide.



1 The legislature finds that the department of transportation
2 leases Kawaihapai Airfield from the United States Department of
3 the Army. The lease is currently set to terminate July 5, 2024.

4 The purpose of this Act is to establish the Kawaihapai
5 Airfield revitalization task force to address issues currently
6 present that risk the closure of Kawaihapai Airfield.

7 SECTION 2. (a) There is established the Kawaihapai
8 Airfield revitalization task force, to be placed in the
9 department of transportation for administrative purposes.

10 (b) The task force shall address the issues necessary to
11 keep Kawaihapai Airfield open and operating safely, including
12 but not limited to:

13 (1) Securing a long-term lease with the United States
14 Department of the Army;

15 (2) Resolving the permanent management of water
16 infrastructure on the site;

17 (3) Ensuring all airfield structures and infrastructure
18 obtain and meet all required permits and applicable
19 standards;

20 (4) Ensuring all airfield operations meet all applicable
21 safety requirements and best practices; and



1 (5) Ensuring that tenants are up to date on financial
2 obligations to the State.

3 (c) The task force shall consist of the following members
4 or their designees:

5 (1) The director of the department of transportation, who
6 shall serve as chair;

7 (2) The chair of the senate committee on transportation;

8 (3) The chair of the house of representatives committee on
9 transportation;

10 (4) Two representatives of the commercial business tenants
11 of Kawaihapai Airfield;

12 (5) Two representatives of the private tenants of
13 Kawaihapai Airfield;

14 (6) A representative of the local community with history
15 in the area;

16 (d) The chair shall invite the following members, or their
17 designees to participate in the task force:

18 (1) Members of the State's Congressional delegation;

19 (2) A representative of the United States Department of
20 the Army;



1 (3) Any other individual who the task force believes would
2 be beneficial.

3 (e) The department of transportation and all stakeholders
4 shall work in good faith to address these and any other issues
5 necessary to keep Kawaihapai Airfield open and operating safely;
6 provided that a plan to resolve these issues can be agreed upon
7 by airfield stakeholders no later than June 30, 2021.

8 (f) The task force shall submit a report of its progress,
9 plans to resolve and address each of the issues identified in
10 section 2(b) of this Act, and any recommendations to the
11 legislature, no later than June 30, 2021. The task force shall
12 submit a report with updates on the progress of implementation
13 of the plan no later than January 1, 2022, and a final report by
14 June 30, 2022.

15 (g) The task force shall dissolve on June 30, 2022.

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



Report Title:

Dillingham Airfield; Kawaihapai Airfield; Department of
Transportation; Lease; U.S. Army; Economic Feasibility Study

Description:

Creates the Kawaihapai Airfield Revitalization Task Force to
keep Kawaihapai Airfield open, provided that necessary issues
are addressed. Requires the task force to report to the
legislature. Sunsets on June 30, 2022. (SD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

