
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AIRPORTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's largest
2 airport serves as the very first gateway to the islands for
3 countless visitors from around the world who expect to arrive in
4 a Pacific island paradise. Unfortunately, the Daniel K.
5 International Airport consistently ranks among the lowest rated
6 airports in the United States. Residents and visitors
7 frequently comment on the unintuitive and disjointed experience
8 navigating the airport from parking to boarding. Visitors
9 frequently cite outdated brutalist concrete terminals,
10 claustrophobic bagging areas, dark curbside pickup areas, and
11 unpleasant views of surrounding industrial areas. Yet visitors
12 often comment positively about the open-air atmosphere of
13 certain portions of the airport and, above all, the open and
14 lush gardens and vegetation in some areas that help to create a
15 relaxed, Hawaii sense of place.

16 The legislature finds that the department of transportation
17 has made efforts to begin improving the Daniel K. Inouye



1 International Airport, including modernizing restrooms,
2 constructing a new mauka concourse, and consolidating rental car
3 facilities. However, while projects such as the mauka concourse
4 have recently been completed, its design has received criticism
5 for resembling airport terminals in New Jersey and Los Angeles.
6 Without a meaningful sense of place, the experience expected by
7 both residents and visitors alike is diminished. Additionally,
8 projects have been implemented without proper planning,
9 resulting in frequent security backups, passenger pickup areas
10 identified by conflicting signage, and connections between
11 parking and check-in unable to accommodate more than a few
12 passengers at a time.

13 The legislature further finds that in the next few years
14 the department of transportation expects to spend billions of
15 dollars in renovations and new projects at the Daniel K. Inouye
16 International Airport including a new Diamond Head concourse. In
17 anticipation of some of these projects, the legislature passed
18 Senate Resolution No. 221 (2021), which in part requested the
19 department of transportation to review, revise, and update plans
20 for the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport to prioritize the



1 user experience, establish a sense of place, incorporation green
2 building standards, and modernize the airport.

3 The legislature finds the Department of Transportation did
4 not take any action related to Senate Resolution No. 221 (2021).
5 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to establish an airport
6 design advisory working group to advise the department of
7 transportation on proper airport planning and design.

8 SECTION 2. (a) There is established an airport advisory
9 working group in the department of transportation for
10 administrative purposes.

11 (b) The duties of the airport advisory working group shall
12 be to advise the department of transportation airports division
13 on how to improve airport planning and design at state
14 international airports serving counties of over 500,000 people,
15 to achieve the following objectives:

- 16 (1) Prioritizing the user experience of the airports;
17 (2) Reflecting the local culture, environment, and sense
18 of place that maximizes comfortable, open-air design,
19 expands upon the gardens and areas commonly cited as
20 the best part of the HNL experience; and



- 1 (3) Sharing a narrative of the history of Hawaii and its
- 2 values;
- 3 (4) Providing better opportunities for commercial and
- 4 retail concessions that can generate additional
- 5 airport revenue;
- 6 (5) Ensuring projects proceed appropriately and without
- 7 delay; and
- 8 (6) Planning facilities to handle future pandemics and
- 9 other related contingencies.
- 10 (c) The airport advisory working group shall:
- 11 (1) Establish general design themes, goals, and directions
- 12 for airports;
- 13 (2) Review proposed airport project needs as well as
- 14 provide initial and early concepts and direction prior
- 15 to project planning and design;
- 16 (3) Review proposed airport project planning and design
- 17 and provide feedback and direction throughout the
- 18 project planning and design process; and
- 19 (4) Review current plans for airports and develop concepts
- 20 and recommendations reflecting the goals of this



1 section to improve and update airport plans and
2 proposals.

3 (d) The airport advisory working group shall be composed
4 of the following persons or their designee:

- 5 (1) A member appointed by the president of the senate, who
6 shall serve as co-chairperson;
- 7 (2) A member appointed by the speaker of the house of
8 representatives, who shall serve as a co-chairperson;
- 9 (3) The deputy director of the airports division of the
10 department of transportation;
- 11 (4) One representative from the Hawaii tourism authority;
- 12 (5) One representative from the University of Hawaii at
13 Manoa school of architecture;
- 14 (6) One representative from the University of Hawaii at
15 Manoa department of urban and regional planning;
- 16 (7) One representative from the American Institute of
17 Architects;
- 18 (8) One member representing labor or the construction
19 trade; and
- 20 (9) One member representing commercial or retail airport
21 concessions.



1 SECTION 3. There is established one full-time equivalent
2 (1.0 FTE) conceptual architect position in the department of
3 transportation to assist the airport advisory working group.
4 This position shall have planning or architecture experience.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the airport
6 revenue fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
7 necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the establishment and
8 operation of the airport advisory working group.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
10 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

11 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Airport Advisory; Working Group; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Airport Advisory Working Group in the Department of Transportation to advise on airport design and construction projects to prioritize user experience while reflecting local culture, environment, and the history of Hawaii. Effective 1/1/2050. (SD1)

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