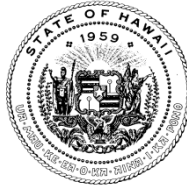


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDUARDO P. MANGALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

Wednesday February 9th, 2022
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Teleconference

H.B. 1515
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

House Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) offers **comments** on this bill which requires the Director of Transportation to adopt rules that require tour aircraft operators to have aircraft liability insurance coverage of not less than \$1,000,000 per person per incident.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires air carriers under Part 121 and 135 to have Aircraft Accident Liability Insurance per Title 14 CFR Part 205.5. The FAA Standards Office monitors the requirements.

The bill only requires tour aircraft operators to have aircraft liability insurance coverage of not less than \$1,000,000 per person per incident, not all air carriers under Part 121 and 135. FAA Grant Assurance No. 22, obligates DOT to make its airports available for public use on reasonable terms and without discrimination to all aeronautical activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1515

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:21:47 AM

Testimony for TRN on 2/9/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Claudine Tomasa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1515 RELATING TO AIRCRAFT

Good morning Chair Aquino and members of the Transportation Committee.

My name is Claudine Tomasa (Kailua Resident and Member of the Kailua Neighborhood Board) and I am testifying in support of HB1515 that requires the Director of Transportation to adopt rules that require tour aircraft operators to have aircraft liability insurance coverage of not less than \$1,000,000 per person per incident.

The same industry standards as commercial airlines should be enforced upon Air Tour helicopters & small aircraft, which are often more susceptible to crashes.

Kailua experienced a fatal helicopter crash on Oneawa Street - April 29, 2019 - the third helicopter crash within a six month period in Windward Oahu.

With the increased and widespread operation of sight seeing helicopters and plane tours in Hawaii, local citizens living in densely populated communities are concerned about their safety as well as the safety of passengers.

HB1515 may address the costs of medical expenses and property damage stemming from an aviation crash.

Please support and pass this Bill to the next Committee.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in support of HB1515.



House Committee on Transportation
10:00 am, Wednesday, February 9, 2022

Re: Comments on HB 1515, Relating to Aircraft

Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan, and members of the committee!

We are writing to provide comments on HB 1515, Relating to Aircraft, which requires certain types and amounts of insurance.

Blue Hawaiian continues to support safety in the industry, and we firmly believe that adequate insurance coverage is the right thing to do for the customer and community

Our aircraft are equipped with technologies and equipment like Helicopter Terrain Awareness and Warning Systems (HTAWS), automatic dependent surveillance-broadcast (ADS-B), aircraft floats and upgraded with the newest GARMIN glass-cockpit avionics to exceed the federal regulatory requirements for helicopter air tour safety. To further that commitment, Blue Hawaiian Helicopters is the only air tour operator in Hawaii to be a member of the Tour Operators Program of Safety, as well as to also have a Voluntary FAA Safety Management System (SMS) implementation program and an accepted and approved Voluntary FAA Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP).

We look forward to engaging with policy leaders and wish to be a resource to the legislature. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.