



Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
9:30 a.m., February 23, 2022

Re: Comments on SB 2745, SD 1, Relating to Aircraft

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and members of the committee!

We are writing to provide comments on SB 2745, SD1, relating to aircraft, which requires the Director of Transportation to adopt rules that require tour aircraft operators to have aircraft liability insurance coverage of an as yet unspecified amount per person per incident.

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.

**TESTIMONY OF EVAN OUE ON BEHALF OF THE HAWAII  
ASSOCIATION FOR JUSTICE (HAJ) IN SUPPORT WITH  
COMMENTS FOR SB 2745 SD1**

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Time: 9:30 a.m.

**LATE**

My name is Evan Oue and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of the Hawaii Association for Justice (HAJ) in **SUPPORT WITH COMMENTS** for SB 2745 SD1, Relating to Aircraft. HAJ supports requiring tour aircraft operators to have aircraft liability insurance coverage for an unspecified amount per person per incident.

HAJ supported the previous version of the bill as it required \$1,000,000 per person per incident for insurance coverage. Sufficient insurance coverage is vital to protecting our residents if they suffer: 1) bodily injury and death; or 2) property damage from an incident involving tour aircraft operations.

Requiring insurance coverage has become increasing necessary given recent incidents involving helicopter crashes. Further, these tour aircraft operators conduct flights in airspace over our local residential neighborhoods and need to have proper insurance minimums in place to assure that residents are properly compensated if there is an incident that results in bodily injury or death. HAJ supports the \$1,000,000 in coverage as it is a sufficient amount to assure that residents can be properly compensated.

HAJ appreciates the legislatures commitment to assuring that there is sufficient recourse for injuries resulting from commercial activities in Hawaii. Thank you for allowing us to testify regarding this measure. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or desire additional information.