

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

February 2, 2021
3.00 p.m.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 375
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION

Senate Committee on Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** SB375 which requires the Department of Transportation to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of repairing or renovating the Kalaeloa Airport air traffic control tower. However, due to the procurement process we must adhere to, the DOT will not be able to submit its report by the deadline in this bill.

Thank you for providing the general funds needed to complete the study and we look forward to providing you with the current status on the air traffic control tower once the study is completed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



MAKAKILO/KAPOLEI/HONOKAI HALE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 34 NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMISSION 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD, SUITE 160 HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817 PHONE (808) 768-3710 FAX
(808) 768-3711 INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

**Testimony of
Michael Ferreira
Chair, Transportation Committee**

Before the Senate Committee on

TRANSPORTATION

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 375, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION**

Senate Bill 349, Draft 1 proposes to require the Department of Transportation to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of repairing or renovating the Kalaeloa air traffic control tower.

The Kapolei Neighborhood Board Transportation Committee proposes to amend the bill to read:

SECTION 1. (a) Require Department of Transportation to apply for available FAA and federal grant funding to relocate and replace this World War II era tower with a new modern tower as the current tower in service is beyond its' economic and physical life; that the Air Traffic Controllers from the Hawaii Air National Guard are operating it under the FAA via waivers and that the current tower cannot accommodate the increase in air traffic now nor in the future when increased traffic loads from the military and general aviation nor be able to accommodate Instrument Flight Rules (IFR) capabilities currently in place at Honolulu International Airport. That Kalaeloa Airport tower is designated the backup tower for Honolulu International Airport yet is not equipped itself to perform that task in case of a natural or man-made disaster that may take the Honolulu International Airport tower out of service. This, to ensure the safety of those working in the air traffic control tower and the general aviation public in having air traffic service provided as well as the general public who needs this back up tower in the Kapolei community.

(b) The Department of Transportation shall submit a report of its findings and availability of federal funding, including any proposed legislation no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for the fiscal year 2021-2022 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the Department of Transportation to employ a grant writer to accomplish this legislative order to ensure the safety of those working at the tower, general aviation and the general public who benefits in a disaster.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Department of Transportation for the purposes of this Act.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021

The Kapolei-Makakilo Neighborhood Board #34 Transportation Committee strongly supports this Bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments / testimony.