



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROSS M. HIGASH  
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN  
PATRICK H. MCCAIN  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

March 22, 2022  
3:20 p.m.  
Conference Room 224 &  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 193 & SENATE RESOLUTION 186**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DEVELOP A PLAN  
FOR THE COST-EFFECTIVE DISPOSITION OF THE SAFE TRAVELS THERMAL  
SCREENING AND TRACING CAMERA EQUIPMENT AND OTHER RELATED  
OPERATIONS**

Senate Committee on Transportation

---

Senate Concurrent Resolution 193 & Senate Resolution 186 is requesting the Department of Transportation, Airports Division (DOTA) to re-purpose the thermal screening and tracing camera at five of its major airports. The DOTA supports the intent of the resolutions.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislative and Executive Branch quickly responded with funding and completed the installation of a thermal screening and tracing camera equipment between August 2020 and December 2020 at the State's five major airports. The system became a necessary step to ensure the safety of the State of Hawaii and its residents by detecting air travelers with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.

The design of the thermal screening equipment was specifically designed to scan hundreds of arriving passengers at each gate with the National Guardsman identifying a passenger and isolating the passenger with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher. The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawaii said that the installation of facial recognition technology in response to COVID-19 was "potentially unconstitutional and terrifying". The design accommodated the legal concerns raised by the ACLU that images captured by the new thermal screening cameras would be "deleted within 30 minutes" and will not be shared with any outside agencies.

With the easing of restrictions and lower hospitalizations, the DOTA has had internal discussions about re-purposing the cameras. While the current thermal screening camera equipment is specific to thermal screening and cannot be repurposed, the tracing camera equipment and infrastructure of IT cabling and power can remain and

be utilized for other purposes. The tracing cameras can be re-purposed for security and surveillance use within their current fixed locations or relocated, and there are discussions to re-purpose the infrastructure IT cabling and power for increase airline efficiencies of having paperless/touchless ticketing. The use of the infrastructure is dependent on the technology of the airlines.

The DOTA suggest that the current thermal screening and tracing camera equipment remain and be used for possible future pandemics. It's use is dependent on funding staff costs to monitor temperature readings and support of the camera system. However, the FAA has determined that the DOTA cannot fund such costs, else it will jeopardize federal grants assurances.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.