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Josh Green, M.D.
Governor

John De Fries
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
JOHN DE FRIES

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 5, 2023
2:00 p.m.

State Capitol Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL NO. 784 SD1 HD2
RELATING TO AIRLINES

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee on Finance,

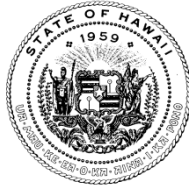
We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on HB784 SD1 HD2, which would require the Department of Transportation to establish and implement a two-year airline subsidy pilot program at Moloka'i Airport to assist airlines in offsetting the costs of operation.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority's Destination Management Action Plans (DMAPs) were developed in collaboration with Hawai'i's communities. Contained in the Moloka'i DMAP is an action item to advocate "to restore affordable and dependable air and sea transportation to viable levels that meet the needs of the community." HTA has been in discussions with community members regarding the issues surrounding one airline operating to the island.

SB847 SD1 HD2 would help to address the community's growing concern for stable and affordable air service.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments on SB784 SD1 HD2. Mahalo.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA

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

April 5, 2023
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 784 SD1 HD2
RELATING TO AIRLINES

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill which establishes a two-year airline subsidy pilot program at Molokai Airport.

We understand that additional funding for critical transportation to Molokai could assist with improving services to the rural communities on Molokai. This two-year pilot program will encourage increased air carrier operations out of Molokai.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 6:09:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mahealani Cypher | Ko`olau Foundation | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members:

The Ko`olau Foundation strongly supports Senate Bill 784 as amended, and urges your committee to pass this bill out of committee and on to the Floor of the House.

Our organization is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of the Hawaiian people, but our advocacy also extends to the welfare of na kanaka maoli themselves.

The lack of adequate air transportation to the island of Molokai is deeply concerning and sad. My elderly cousin suffers from dementia, and her son's family has relocated to Molokai but were unable to take his mom with them because there is inadequate medical service on the island an great difficulty transporting her back and forth to O`ahu for care. She has had to be placed in a residential care facility on O`ahu.

Flights are limited and the people are suffering.

Please kokua and help the people of Molokai by approving this bill that can support better transportation for all their needs.

Mahalo for considering our mana`o.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 10:08:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ted Anderson | Venture Physical Therapy LLC | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ted Anderson and I am the owner of Venture Physical Therapy LLC. I am writing in support of SB784 to create a subsidy program for travel to and from Moloka'i. My company provides In-Home Physical Therapy services on the island of Moloka'i since the early days of the pandemic and we are the first to do so in over 20 years. The current irregularity of flights and progressive cost increases of flights has meant that we have greater difficulty sending therapists on a twice-weekly basis to Moloka'i to continue care for the most at-risk Kupuna.

When we began this program we were able to break even with revenue generated versus the cost of delivering service. We were happy with this arrangement as we were more focused on providing care rather than profits. Over the past 6 months, the cost of flights has gone up significantly. It is estimated at the current flight price point, we will lose over \$20,000 dollars over the coming year. This is unsustainable over the long term. We have tried to bring a full-time Physical Therapist to live on-island for over 2 years with as little success as the other providers on Moloka'i including Queens Hospital. Clinicians traveling between the islands are currently the only viable option to continue care. This bill has the potential to offset our losses and continue to provide high-quality care to the most at risk on Moloka'i.

Mahalo for your time

Ted Anderson PT, DPT OCS
Owner Venture Physical Therapy

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 11:14:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy D Nichols | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

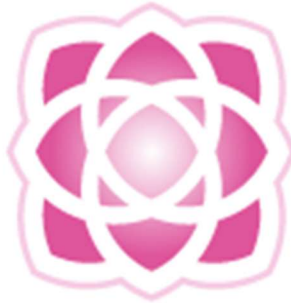
I worked in the visitor industry for over 20 yrs. here in the islands. I have felt for a long time Mokulele Airlines does not know how to schedule their flights & make money without bankrupting the residents. I don't travel yet I feel so bad for folks needing regular doctor appointments off island. It's so sad!!!!

We need help for Molokai residents needing to travel off island. Thank you for your consideration of my statement.

Diane Nichols

808-553-3929

ladymkk@gmail.com



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5, 2023 AT 2:00 P.M.

To The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

SUPPORT FOR SB784 SD1 HD2 RELATING TO AIRLINES

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **strongly supports SB784 SD1 HD2** which requires the Department of Transportation to establish and implement a two-year Airline Subsidy Pilot Program at Molokai Airport to assist airlines in offsetting the costs of operation.

The Chamber notes that since January 2021, only one passenger airline has provided service to the general public out of Molokai Airport. While the airline has done its best to accommodate the needs of passengers, including additional routes, flight times, and ordering larger planes, the cost of plane tickets remains prohibitive to many Molokai residents who need to travel for essential reasons, including work, medical appointments, and family. To alleviate cost burdens for passengers reliant on air travel to and from Molokai, implementing a one-year Airline Subsidy Pilot Program may provide incentives for airlines to service Molokai.

We would also note that there is no mention of the Lana'i airport in this measure. While we appreciate the effort and attention on the Moloka'i airport, we feel that the same consideration should be made for Lana'i airport since the residents of Lana'i face very similar issues getting off the island for essential services.

For these reasons we **strongly support SB784 SD1 HD2** and would appreciate **consideration for adding Lana'i airport in the program.**

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 4:56:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael B. K. Arce | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB784. The cost of commuting in and out of Molokai has become difficult for people to afford. Bill SB784 would help the people of Molokai commute to work, medical appointments, school, and other services that Molokai cannot accommodate. Aloha and Mahalo

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 5:49:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lisa Omalsa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a full time resident of Molokai and I fully support SB784. Mokulele is the only airline serving the island, so we are at their mercy. Continued flight cancelations and rescheduling has been our "norm" for a number of months now.

PLEASE support this bill. It may not be the final answer, but it's better to do something to resolve the issue then to do nothing.

Mahalo for your consideration!

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 6:17:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kathy Sears-Tancayo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I'm having to pay \$100 more now for a round trip from Molokai to Oahu. \$238 the last time I had to make the trip for a medical reason for airfare, \$151 for 2 days car rental and \$410 for a decent hotel for 2 nights. I had to go down early because so many flights have been delayed or canceled; I could not afford to reschedule the surgery. \$800 is a huge amount of money to me but at least I can pay it off over time on a credit card. I know folks here on Molokai who cannot afford to travel.

We need at least one more airlines to serve the island and have reciprocal agreement with each other so if a flight is canceled by one the passengers are move to another. That was what used to happen when we had multiple airlines coming into Molokai. I first came to Molokai in 1987 so have seen the service deterioration first hand.

Right now I have to plan another \$800 trip for a medical procedure at Queen's. Spending that much for a simple medical procedure is daunting, scary and depressing. Please do whatever is in your power to help the residents of Molokai.

Kathy E. Sears-Tancayo

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 6:21:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Michelle Magdirila | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As a Moloka'i resident, I strongly support SB784. Although Mokulele Airlines has been servicing our island as best as they are able, within the last several months traveling has been a nightmare a lot of residents. Whether traveling for vacation, business, or doctor's visits the stress of wondering if your flight will be delayed or cancelled is overwhelming. Some travel the day or two before their appointment to assure they make it. Even having to fly (or catch a boat) to Maui then fly to Oahu (flights from OGG-HNL are less than \$50 one way!) is also an option to avoid missed appointments or missing your connecting flight to the mainland.

Having other options for residents (especially) to get to other islands will help alleviate the stress that comes with traveling.

Mahalo,

Michelle M.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 6:42:13 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jonathan Thomas | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As a Molokai resident and heart attack survivor, I need an airline service that is dependable. As a father to an elementary age child whose dentist is on Oahu, we need reliable service. My last 2 out of 3 medical/dental appointments had to be cancelled due to flight cancellations and not able to rebook in time for appointments. These appointments are life threatening. Echocardiogram on Oahu due to CHF from heart attack, child dental appointments made months in advance cannot be rescheduled easily. No compensation for cancelled flights while on Oahu. We do not have family on island, so a cancelled flight means we have to pay Hawaii prices for hotels, no less than \$200/night. How can Mokulele get away with no passenger compensation. When they have flight issues?

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 8:10:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| maggie daub | Individual | Comments | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I agree with the assist for Molokai with air travel, but what about Lanai?

I've heard we were left out of this bill because of the option of the ferry. Problem is, many of us have Drs in Honolulu, as we're associated with Straub

it is physically impossible to travel to Honolulu and back in one day utilizing the ferry, and cost prohibitive to stay in a hotel overnight

Please add Lanai to this bill

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:07:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hazel Hernandez | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of SB784. The residents of Moloka'i have been faced with costly airfare to get the essential health services that are not provided on island. I hope this bill will provide affordable airfare for Moloka'i residents.

Mahalo,

Hazel Hernandez

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/3/2023 10:45:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Julyn Kaupu-Martinez | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Molokai who travels to Oahu for work every week. The amount of money that I have spent is RIDICULOUS. I have had to sacrifice breaking up my family so that I can work on Oahu to provide for us. Living on Moloka'i isn't cheap and the jobs are rare and few that could compare to what Oahu has. I also live in Oahu because of Medical to which my dad frequents the hospital and does dialysis and other appointments that can't be provided on Moloka'i for flying back and forth will not work with only 1 airline.

I work in the airline industry I understand what 1 plane down means for the rest of the day and all the days to come. From changing flight times to cancelling flights is common and bound to happen.

It's time to RESCUE the residents of Molokai.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 3:22:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Robin Kaye | Individual | Comments | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Air travel from and to both Lanai and Molokai has been extremely challenging over the years, but particularly during the last six months, Both islands have but one commercial carrier -- Mokulele -- which has tried to remedy their abysmal record of service with excuses for the past, and promises for the future. But the residents of both small, rural islands need better than that. SB784 proposes to create a pilot program aimed at finding ways to improve Mokulele's services — and to make clear the opportunity of finding alternative carrier services.

SB784 targets financial support in the form of a pilot program, but in its current writing, that support is solely for Molokai. Yet Lanai faces similar situations. Yes, our island does have a ferry, but that ferry does not provide transportation to O'ahu, for example, for medical appointments or for residents serving on State boards and commissions that are now meeting "live." A Lanai resident seeking to use the consistent transportation of the Expeditions Ferry to go to Oahu would need to first take a ferry to Lahaina, find a ride (taxi or Uber/Lyft) to Kahului Airport, then fly over to Oahu. That trip, for a morning meeting and/or medical appointment on Oahu, would unquestionably require an overnight (and thus expensive) hotel stay.

Mokulele's habitual tardiness and unexplained cancellations have caused significant complications for Lanai residents. And unfortunately those travails have occurred unaccompanied by any communication and/or easy rectification from Mokulele staff.

Expanding the proposed pilot program to include Lana'i would be extremely helpful to our community. Please add us in.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Robin Kaye

Lānaʻi Resident

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 4:40:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Laurie Bishaw | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

I have lived on molokai for about 35 years and we have had our share of company taking advantage of us cause we our an island that lives only off the land and the sea no big city's no traffic no nothing like the other islands but mokuleilei has just scow us people by ever day changing flights or just canceling them and they are the only AIRLINES that is on our island please pass the bill cause our people are missing there doctor appointment and we only have 2 doctors hear alit of people on our island dont have a doctor anymore and have to pay to go to the hospital on island and they aren't the best believe me I almost list my daughter cause they didn't understand why she was sick and they never like send her out and I am not the only person like this. So please help our molokai community and pass this bill

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 5:11:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kalola Kaulili | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in support of this pilot program to off set travel cost for Molokai Residents.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 5:23:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Brian Miyamoto | Individual | Support | In Person |

Comments:

I support. Farm Strong!

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 7:11:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nani Kahinu | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha I am in support of this bill with another airlines to service Molokai. We need to have two airlines with service on Molokai so if flights are delayed or canceled we can make timely adjustments!

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 7:41:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kanoelani Davis | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, on behalf of a Generational Molokai Rooted Family, a single parent home, a business woman who operates on and off island, a healthy adult who utilizes health care services on and off Molokai, a mother of daughters who play sports on and off of Molokai, an involved community member who builds, protects and cultivates with others in the state of Hawai'i, and a child that assists kupuna to utilize medical service specialists on O'ahu, I am for the funding and support to subsidize funds to offset and/or fund another airline to service, first and foremost the 'ohana and full time residents of Molokai, while putting tourism second and our people of Hawai'i, of Molokai, first!

Kanoelani Davis

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:06:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Scott Hilbert | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I fully support SB784, thank you.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:32:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Van Ornum | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB784 SDI HD2. The island of Molokai needs cost effective, reliable transportation venues.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:56:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rob | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

3 words - Molokai NEEDS HELP!

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 4:45:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Enoka Nahoopii | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill. We need help to keep our airlines in service to the island of Molokai. Not only for our traveling and leisure purposes but more importantly for the kupuna and the people who require medical services off island. I've worked in the medical field for more than 20 years and I've helped to arrange medical appointments for our people on a daily basis. Without this bill to help keep the airlines in service, our people would struggle and would possibly not be able to survive. Mahalo for all your hard work and dedication to our people. Aloha.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 5:03:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Rosie F Davis | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha

i support SB784

mahalo nui

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 5:48:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Sherry Sasada | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha!

We all know that so many people on Molokai rely on Mokulele a lot to get us over to Oahu and to Maui for doctors appointments, dentist, etc, as well as visiting ohana. I believe that this subsidy will help to keep them operating on Molokai and also to help them keep their employees. I do understand that with the employee shortage due to better paying jobs at other airlines, it is the major cause of their delays and cancellations. Also, with this subsidy, it will hopefully bring costs down on airline tickets which will make it affordable for some people to fly out as well. I believe that this subsidy will maybe attract other airlines or modes of transportation to come in, which will allow us to have other options to travel. I ask that you please consider passing this bill because we all know that Molokai needs help with this and for the sake of our kupuna and those that need other medical attention, please think of their needs as well. I really appreciate your time and opportunity to voice my opinion.

Mahalo,

Sherry and Ron Sasada, Hoolehua Residents, Molokai

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 5:49:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Shiloh Caparida | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Shiloh Caparida, I recently moved back fro El Paso, Texas and didn't have reservations from Maui to Molokai. I considered getting off the plane in Honolulu, and to no avail there weren't any flight available from Honolulu to Molokai either. So as a kanaka maoli I'm thinking of all my options; who can I stay with overnight? How much is a hotel? How much is Uber versus rental car? I ended up paying \$30 Oneway on Southwest HNL to OGG, got my friend to drive me to Lahaina, and had my dad pick me up on his boat. I can only imagine the cost involved and others who don't have the option of a boat, the way I had/have. Indeed, I support SB784. Thank you.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:00:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kristie Caparida | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB784. As a registered nurse and resident, I have experienced Mokulele being delayed, and cancelled. We depend on Mokulele for work when bringing in float nurses or technicians to support us. Airline service is critical with job and healthcare provider scarcity. This is the reason I am in favor of a subsidy pilot program. Thank you.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:17:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Stafford Caparida | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My written testimony is in support of SB784. As a Molokai resident of (52) years, I have never seen the struggles of air travel as it is today. With the recent price hike and having only one airlines (Mokulele Airlines) servicing our island, it is very difficult to reserve flights. It can be an outright "BURDEN" to plan for air travel to/from Molokai with limited flights. During the last several months, we have witnessed flight cancellations due to airplanes breaking down causing a backlog and chaos experienced by Mokulele passengers. I do speak of personal experience. We as residents have no choice but to utilize this air travel service. Don't get me wrong, I am very thankful for Mokulele Airlines and the service they bring to our island.

I believe SB784 will be an incentive for other airlines to possibly enter in the market and to service Molokai as well as other islands. It will also alleviate service disruption and hopefully lower flight prices.

Thank you,

Stafford "Lani" Caparida

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:21:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jonelle Nahoopii-Kaauwai | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The people of Molokai depend of Mokulele. Please help Molokai and continue to support our people.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:23:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Audrey Nahoopii-Kaauwai | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The residents of Moloka'i severely needs this bill to pass. With both of our doctors of Moloka'i suddenly passing away we the people depend on the only airline transportation that we have mainly for medical emergency & job purposes. Please hear our cry and help support us residents with a better and more convenient way of traveling to our sister islands.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:31:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| U'ilani Schnackenberg | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha my name is U'ilani Schnackenberg and I am in support of this two year pilot program. The monopolization of Mokulele has highlighted a lot of issues for residence of Molokai. These are some of the struggling examples, that having a second airline can hopefully address: increase cost of flights has made it very difficult to travel, whether for leisure/medical/family emergency. Additionally, having another airline will offset the amount/frequency of delays - despite Mokulele's best efforts to combat mechanical or operational erros, the reality is that it leave folks scrambling to adjust e.g., connecting flights from Maui/Oahu to the continental U.S., delays have also led to people getting to their destination at midnight [that's unacceptable], others are having to r/s doctors appt that they've been waiting months* for, and for folks that are providing services to Molokai, from outer islands, their schedules are impacted, which ultimately interferes w/ the access to resources/services for the people on Molokai.

Mahalo for your time, again, I am in support of this pilot program.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 6:46:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lorna Dudoit | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Born and raised on the island of Molokai, we need one airline and support the establishment and implementation of this airline two year subsidy pilot program on Molokai. Thank you

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 7:30:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Zessica Apiki | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

It's really not clear to me that our politicians understand the extent of this problem. The price of a round trip ticket from Molokai to Oahu is more than \$200 while other interisland carriers have one-way fares as low as \$38, For \$200, it is not uncommon for Mokulele to delay your flite for many hours and/or completely cancel it. Residents and visitors alike, report receiving emails or text messages late at night or early in the morning 12 p.m. - 5 a.m. canceling their flights. Many of our island residents, young and old, need to travel off island for specialized medical services and was forced to cancel or reshedule their appointments due to canceled or delayed flites, If you ask yourselves, "how did we get here?" Then the answer is clear that this bill is not the resolution. This problem is multi-faceted but it starts with allowing a monopoly to exist. As a reminder, the United States sued to block the JetBlue-Spirit Airline merger because it believed the deal would reduce competition and drive up air fares for consumers. Yet, everyone was asleep when Mokulele (aka Southern Airways) purchased Makani Kai and created this situation. Additionally, Mokulele is responsible for their financial struggles by growing too quickly and not managing their growth in a fiscally repsonsible manner. Funding their operations will not help to relieve any of the current problems faced by Molokai and Lanai residents. I strongly support funding ***for any other carrier to pilot a project on Molokai.*** Competition benefits consumers by keeping prices low and quality and choice of goods and services high. Please DO NOT SUPPORT this bill. Let's put our heads together and find a real solution.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 7:45:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Joelle Kaai | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:02:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Caulin Forest Angelsea | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support SB784.

Unless you own a private boat, Molokai residents only have one way of getting to other islands and the mainland. We need airlines like Mokulele for work, health care visits, and to see family.

The DOT should assist Mokulele airline to ensure Molokai residents have an affordable and reliable way to travel.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:45:06 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Carrie DeCoite | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Our community need opportunities to travel to and from the neighbor islands without breaking the bank. My hope is this bill will help to reduce travel fair & perhaps encourage other airlines to provide service for Molokai residence.

Thank you for the opportunity to share testinmony.

Mahalo,
Carrie DeCoite

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/4/2023 8:57:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Briann Starkey | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

RE: SB 784: Relating to Airlines

Tuesday, April 4, 2023

Aloha Senators.

My name is Briann Starkey and I am submitting testimony as an individual. I am a kumu kaiapuni at Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kualapu‘u on the island of Moloka‘i. I am in support of this Bill to help implement a two-year subsidy pilot program to help offset operation costs. Born and raised on Moloka‘i and because this is the only ways of transportation to and from the island, with this funds it will also help alleviate the cost of airfare to the locals and kupuna who live on Moloka‘i.

Recently, Flights have been delayed because of the lack of supplies and materials needed to operate and planes being stuck on the tarmac, resulting in cancellations and hours of delay. The new 30 seater planes have needed consistent repairs recently.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 5:21:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kilia Purdy-Avelino | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Kilia Purdy-Avelino from Ho'olehua, Molokai. Like many other passengers from Molokai, we have experienced delays and cancellations. This has recently caused me to decline work-related travel in fear of not getting home on time for other important duties and events. Yet, I am more concerned for passengers who have medical-related travel and the seriousness of its repercussions. Ticket prices are also sky high and comparable to flying to the mainland though the distance between Molokai and Maui or Honolulu is only 25 minutes! For these reasons, I am in full support of this pilot requesting airline subsidies as long as the passengers of Molokai will see a decrease in fare and the potential of having more options of airlines here on Molokai. Mahalo nui!

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 6:04:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Deldrine Kapuni Manera | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

As a lifelong resident of Moloka'i, I can attest to the airline crisis we are experiencing currently. We have always had multiple options re: air travel to and from off island. Hawaiian Air, Aloha Airline, Royal Hawaiian, Air Molokai, Mahalo, GO, Reeve's Air to name a few. Unfortunately, those days are gone and so are the days of economic wealth as people worked and welcomed jobs and business. I don't see or foresee any other airline jumping up and down to service Moloka'i so we need to malama Mokulele. We have all heard of horror stories of cancellations and hours delayed flights. However, we only have one carrier at this time. As a wise friend helped put things into perspective, would we rather have an airline with 75% on time flights or 100% zero flights? It is 2023 and yet I feel we live in a third world country at times on Moloka'i. So I support the subsidies to the only operating airlines on Moloka'i to help keep Mokulele afloat & to keep or hire workers needed to maintain operations. I may sound naive at this point, but I am hopeful that another option will be able to set up shop on Moloka'i. Praying for a miracle.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:55:35 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As a frequent flyer, the voices of our residents must be heard. Providing support by way of subsidies will help with the ongoing sturggles with the only airline that services Molokai. Flight delays are excessive. We acknowledge safety is always a first!

In addition, Pricing is not comparable to other interisland travel.

Please support this measure for our Molokai people. We are at their mercy!!!

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 8:58:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Thompson Kaluhiokalani | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The voices of our residents must be heard.

Flight delays are excessive. We acknowledge safety is always a first!

In addition, Pricing is not comparable to other interisland travel.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:06:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mahiki Lankford | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As a kupuna, Mokulele is the only airline that services Molokai. Flight delays are excessive. We acknowledge safety is always a first!

Pricing is not comparable to other interisland travel.

Please support Molokai people.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:10:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Diane Korpi | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Molokai residents have suffered increasing airline costs for a few years. While we are happy to have an airline continue to service the residents, cost and delays have become problems. It costs \$200-\$300 for a day to fly to Oahu or Maui for personal, business, or medical reasons. To take a family trip off island it costs more than \$800 for a family of 4. We then have to wonder if our flight will be delayed hours or canceled. Many residents have missed essential medical appointments that have been scheduled for months, having to wait months to get another appointment. Molokai residents need assistance.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:12:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kamakea luat | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The residents of Molokai need another airline with bigger planes and bigger seats to accommodate residents. I flew to molokai for a funeral and my flight got pushed back so many times with no explanation. Molokai residents depend on the airlines to go off island for doctor's appointments and work. We need to think about molokai residents. We need to service them as well.

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:15:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ekela w uahinui | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha my name is Ekela uahinui I haven't been off of molokai since Hawaiian left molokai we need another big airline or an bigger plane the one now ain't that big don't think it can accommodate me which I'm 5 hundred plus pounds an with all this delays its crazy molokai needs help eh even a ferry to Maui would work at least it's an option.

aloha Ekela uahinui

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 9:21:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynette sheppard | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Delays and cancellations have been rampant for the last few months with Mokulele Airlines - but even when it is running well (as I hope will be the case soon), the cost is prohibitive for most on the island. \$200+ for a round trip to/from HNL. Because we have limited health care options, most of us must travel to Oahu for medical appointments. The costs add up fast. And many may put off needed medical intervention because of the high cost - especially kupuna on fixed incomes. Ultimately, this actually ends up costing the state money when medical complications set in - Medicaid costs. As a registered nurse, I am all too familiar with this problem. A subsidy could end up saving not just lives, but money. Please pass this bill - the people of Molokai are depending on you. Thank you for your time and consideration. Aloha, Lynette Sheppard (Mrs. Dewitt Jones)

SB-784-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/5/2023 11:24:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/5/2023 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cherilyn Uahinui | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha I am writing this testimony to say that we need a better solution to our means of air transportation getting on and off of our island, especially for our kupuna, and our handicap impaired people on Molokai. Better planes is a good option that can accommodate us and the bigger people. Delays and getting bumped is very stressful because we miss a lot of our doctors appointments. Right now with the one airlines is really hard for all of us. Bringing back the ferry to our island would mean we have options to get to places that we need to rather if it's to the doctors of even a vacation. Please help us with our concerns, in any mean's possible.

Mahalo nui loa