

**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 1570, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ON
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

DATE: Monday, February 10, 2025 **TIME:** 3:15 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 225 & Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Brenton Inouye, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Elefante and Lee and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to amend section 127A-14, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to require the Governor to declare a state of emergency and exercise emergency powers if air transportation is unavailable or is foreseeably unavailable to and from the islands of Molokai and Lanai for a period longer than 24 hours. The bill also requires the Department of Transportation to design a runway expansion on Molokai to accommodate larger aircraft and appropriates funds to plan and design the expansion.

Section 2 of the bill violates the separation of powers doctrine because it compels the Governor to exercise his emergency powers to address air transportation shortfalls affecting Molokai and Lanai.

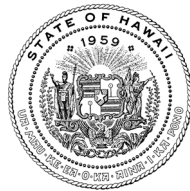
Hawaii's government is one in which the sovereign power is divided and allocated among three co-equal branches. The doctrine provides that a department . . . may not exercise powers not so constitutionally granted, which from their essential nature, do not fall within its division of governmental functions, unless such powers are properly incidental to the performance by it of its own appropriate functions.

Hawaii Insurers Council v. Lingle, 120 Haw. 51, 69-70 (2008) (citations and internal quotes omitted). Although the Legislature may confer statutory emergency powers on the Governor and establish standards for their use, whether and how the Governor executes those powers is an executive function. See Haw. Const. art. V, § 5. (“The governor shall be responsible for the faithful execution of the laws.”) This bill compels the Governor to declare a state of emergency and therefore infringes on the executive’s sole authority to faithfully execute chapter 127A, HRS.

Additionally, section 2 of the bill is unnecessary because the Governor currently has the authority to exercise emergency powers if air transportation shortages cause “an emergency or a disaster . . . or . . . there is imminent danger or threat of an emergency or a disaster in any portion of the State.” Section 127A-14(a), HRS.

To address these concerns, we recommend deleting section 2 of the bill (page 3, line 1, through page 5, line 3), with the subsequent sections renumbered accordingly. We also recommend deleting page 2, lines 13-17, from section 1 of the bill, and section 5 of the bill (page 6, lines 1-2).

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE
ARTS AND PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1570

February 10, 2025
3:15 p.m.
Room 225 and Videoconference

RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

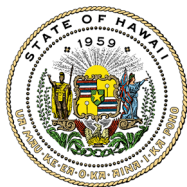
The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 1570 does the following: 1) amends Section 127A-14, HRS, to require the Governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers if air transportation service is unavailable, or foreseeably unavailable, to and from the island of Moloka'i or Lāna'i for longer than 24 hours; 2) requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Moloka'i Airport to accommodate larger aircraft; 3) requires DOT to submit the plan and a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2026; and 4) appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 26 for the planning and design of the expansion of the Moloka'i Airport runway.

B&F suggests consideration of Airport Special Funds or Airport Revenue Bond Funds as alternative funding sources for the planning and design of the Moloka'i Airport runway expansion project as these funds are specifically designated for airport-related projects and improvements, ensuring that the expansion project is financially sustainable.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
KAHU HO'OMALU PŪLIA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1570
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
TRANSPORTATION & CULTURE AND THE ARTS
AND PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Aloha Chairs Lee and Elefante, Vice-Chairs Inouye and Wakai, and Members of both Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a testimony in **COMMENT** of Senate Bill 1570.

The Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency is writing to express concerns with Senate Bill 1570, which proposes to require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers in response to the unavailability of air transportation service to and from Moloka'i and Lāna'i for more than twenty-four hours, as well as to mandate the expansion of Moloka'i's airport runway.

While we understand the genuine concerns regarding the current state of air transportation for Moloka'i and the impact this has on residents, we believe the provisions of this bill are problematic and may not be the most effective or appropriate solution to the ongoing issues.

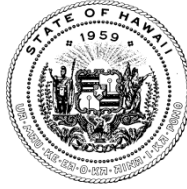
While air service disruptions are indeed concerning, they may not always rise to the level of an emergency requiring statewide or even local emergency powers. These powers should be reserved for more significant, immediate threats such as natural disasters or life-threatening events, to ensure they remain available for their intended use.

Runway expansion is a complex, costly, and time-consuming process that could take years to complete. Proper planning and consultation with all stakeholders, including the local community, environmental groups, and industry experts should be considered.

While HIEMA recognizes the significance of reliable transportation to Moloka'i and Lāna'i, we respectfully seek provisions of this bill that would require the governor to declare a state of emergency and mandate the expansion of the runway. We believe the focus should be on developing a comprehensive, sustainable solution in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, rather than using emergency powers for issues that do not constitute immediate threats to life and safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1570.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

LATE

February 10, 2025
3:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.B. 1570
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Senate Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts & Public Safety and
Military Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports the intent of S.B. 1570 which requires the Governor to declare a state of emergency and use his emergency powers if scheduled commercial air transportation service is unavailable, to and from the islands of Moloka'i or Lana'i for longer than 24-hours. Requires the Department of Transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Moloka'i Airport (MKK) to accommodate larger aircraft.

It is our understanding that the needs of the communities on Moloka'i and Lana'i are not being met by the current commercial air carrier. This bill will give the needed power to the Governor to utilize other air transportation services, such as chartered fixed wing or rotor wing services to and from Moloka'i and Lana'i during a state of an emergency. DOT supports the efforts to help the communities receive the vital air transportation service.

To address the immediate needs and concerns, DOT is talking to other commuter airlines that have communicated their interest to enter the Hawaii market to offer another alternative for Moloka'i and Lana'i residents as well as other rural airports throughout the State's airport system.

DOT however does not support, based on previous research, the expansion of MKK runway because of the following.

- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Benefit-Cost Analysis would not justify the expansion of the runway at MKK.
- We could not get a commitment from a non-commuter airline to have scheduled service to Molokai.
- If we could get a non-commuter airline to fly to Molokai, we would need Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screening at the airport, Will TSA be able to staff and provide equipment to the island again?

- In 2018, DOT signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Pulama Lana‘i to extend the runway at Lana‘i Airport by 500 feet. Pulama Lana‘i through a letter dated May 31, 2024, informed DOT that the “estimated cost is too high for us to justify 500 feet of asphalt paving and related improvements. Consequently, we are writing to inform you that we would like to move forward with **terminating** the MOA”.
- The improvements to MKK would include not only a 1,500 feet extension but, an additional 50 feet to the width of the runway.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



MOLOKA'I DRUGS, INC.
EST. 1935

February 8, 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante, and Committee Members:

My name is Kimberly Svetin, a Moloka'i native who returned home from Seattle to manage our family-owned pharmacy. As a rural healthcare provider, access to high-quality healthcare services is our mission at Moloka'i Drugs. I am testifying in favor of SB1570, which requires the Governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers if air transportation service is unavailable.

Last month, I had a 5+ hour, one-way commute from O'ahu to Moloka'i. I was stuck in Honolulu when our island's only air carrier, Mokulele Air, shut itself down for over five days on January 15, 2025. I took an Uber from Honolulu to Kaneohe then jumped on a 23' Boston Whaler at 4am in the morning. From Kaneohe to Hale O Lono Harbor, it took over 3 hours, 45 minutes to travel 42 miles. At the harbor, a local couple gave me a ride the airport and I finally arrived at my home after 8am, over five hours later.

I am thankful I didn't get sick like one of the passengers on my boat ride. I feel so bad for our children getting chemo, kupuna seeing doctors and dentists, medical appointments made months ago being cancelled, and having insurance companies such as AlohaCare, HMSA, UnitedHealthcare and Wellcare redo and cancel flights for their Quest patients.

Last week, the reservation for our O'ahu-based foot doctor who sees over 70 patients a month was cancelled. Also last week, the plane ticket for the Honolulu orthodontist who flies in once a month was cancelled; she sees at least 30 people per month.

As the president of Moloka'i Drugs, I see first-hand the stress and anxiety that having only one true option to leave and return to Moloka'i. This is a life-and-death crisis. Our people are not receiving the healthcare they deserve. This is a basic right and we need to do something about this. Thank you for your support of SB1570.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Mikami Svetin

Kimberly Mikami Svetin, President
Moloka'i Drugs, Inc.
P.O. Box 558
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Work 808-553-5790

In Support of SB1570
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

February 7, 2025

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Elefante and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is Siana Austin Hunt and our family owns and operates Kapualei Ranch on the East End of Molokai, Maui County, Hawaii. As a 6th generation rancher, we are today facing significant challenges associated with Mokulele Airlines so much so, that we have had to move my 88-year-old father to Oahu to live permanently in order that he can get to important medical appointments with reliability. The delays and cancelations associated with Mokulele have caused significant interruption to not only our family but also our family business with now having to split our time in trying to manage a business and caring for our dad. Sadly, we were once again impacted with the closure of our only airlines for six days in January 2025 where we found ourselves unable to get back to Oahu to care for him. We attempted to return back to Honolulu only to have our flights cancelled 4 times! What was intended to be a three-day trip to balance ranch priorities turned into 9 days with significant financial impacts to our livelihood.

This letter is in strong support of SB1570 to:

- *Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget of 2025 – 2026.
- *Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours;
- *Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service;
- *Use private contractors to provide essential air service;
- *Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or if air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Thank you for your support of SB 1570.

Sincerely,



Siana Austin Hunt
Owner, Kapualei Ranch

In Support of SB1570
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

February 8, 2025

Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Elefante and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is Lori-Lei Rawlins-Crivello. My mom, Shirley Rawlins, and I own and operate Rawlins Service Texaco in the heart of Kaunakakai town. I am the 3rd generation in our family business which has been serving our island of Moloka'i for nearly 60 years first as a Shell gas station, then Chevron for nearly 40 years and now for the past 10 years as a Texaco. I am an 8th generation descendent of Kaiakea, son of Moloka'i. My mom and I are a Native Hawaiian owned and operated business which is greatly affected by the inconsistency, disruptions and challenges associated with Mokulele Airlines and having to be reliant to just one airline on Moloka'i.

On Jan. 15th, the very day Mokulele airlines grounded their flights, my mom had a 3pm flight to the mainland scheduled with a 10am flight to O'ahu. Not getting notified of the grounding, she heard through the Moloka'i coconut wireless at 8am that all flights were cancelled for the day. In a panic, she frantically called around to see what options she had as she could not miss that flight. In desperation, my 81 year old mother called someone with a boat to see if she could be taken to Maui by way of boat, hitch a ride from Lahaina to Kahului airport to make the only flight possible on Hawaiian to get her to O'ahu in time. Wet from the boat ride, she barely made it to Kahului airport to be wheel chaired on to that last flight and barely made her flight to the mainland still in her wet clothes from the boat ride. On her return to Hawai'i, she had to fly back to Maui, catch a ride back to Lahaina and get a boat ride back to Moloka'i on a private boat. This is what Moloka'i residents were forced to do during that entire grounding disruption period.

On Jan. 22nd I had a planned community meeting organized and advertised to take place on Moloka'i flying in race organizers from Maui and O'ahu for this year's channel canoe race events. This community meeting is a requirement by the State-Maui County Division In order for these events to get their race permits. In that stipulation an organized community meeting is required which must be advertised and planned at least one month ahead. Sadly the meeting had to be cancelled due to this disruption in flight services.

On Jan. 28th, I was called by my aunt who was in tears cause her granddaughter was on a boat in rough conditions headed to O'ahu with her 1 year old son, who is required to fly to O'ahu for treatments in preparation for a kidney transplant and had to cross the Ka'iwi channel at the last minute when their flight to O'ahu was cancelled for the 2nd time. They had a flight cancel on them the week before where they missed his treatments with no alternatives and then again on Jan. 28th being cancelled even after operations resumed. When she called Mokulele after hearing that those needing medical services were priority, she was told to keep calling back as they had nothing available. Not having any alternatives, they got a private boat to take them to O'ahu under crazy conditions, go to his treatments which lasted a good 3 hours minimum, then make their way back to Maunaloa bay and headed back to Moloka'i around 4pm that evening. If you do the math and if you understand, that boat ride back is at least 3 hours long under rough conditions and this is so unacceptable! I know so many others enduring the same hardships and to think we are in 2025, living in the US and having to still endure such extreme circumstances just to get essential medical care?

One last thing I am inclined to share. With a family business on Moloka'i, I was forced to relocate my home to O'ahu for medical purposes. 4 years ago my then 32 year old son went to Moloka'i General Hospital sharing he felt he was having a stroke. He walked in himself, although slurring, shared his symptoms and the fact his arm was acting weird, and shared he felt like it was a stroke they diagnosed him with vertigo and kept him there for vertigo. Long story short, he wasn't sent to O'ahu until the 3rd day at which time he had brain damage and now a quadriplegic. This happened right as Covid shut down hospitals. After a year of going between hospitals and skilled facilities, he was discharged to us but how were we to take our son back to Moloka'i? He was bed bound, unable to sit himself up in a chair needless to say he could not travel by Mokulele which requires you to get out of a wheel chair and be transferred to a seat on these small 9 passenger planes. Needless to say going back and forth for specialists and visits would be insane so we were forced to move our lives to O'ahu where I would fly back and forth to run the business. As you can imagine, the cancellations, delays, and recent grounding has been a nightmare. Having only one airline serving Moloka'i is unrealistic especially under these circumstances. Traveling between Moloka'i and O'ahu is a lifeline for our residents and being reliant on only one airlines is unacceptable especially when they face challenges that causes hardships on those who are required to travel.

Last but not least, as a business owner, we need more available flights and seats first and foremost for our residents and then for our island visitors which will help stimulate our island economic engine. Our businesses on island has taken a great hit these past years trying to stay afloat with the decline of resources which would bring visitors to our island as many can't get flights or can't fly on small 9 passenger planes as opposed to a 30 passenger flight. There has been a huge ripple effect since 'Ohana by Hawaiian left and then Makani Kai. We have been patient long enough and enduring long enough and here we are today. We need to have more than one air service to our island but also affordable where it doesn't cost us a mainland fare just to take a 30 minute flight between Moloka'i and O'ahu.

This letter is in strong support of SB1570 to:

*Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget of 2025 – 2026.

*Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours;

*Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service;

*Use private contractors to provide essential air service;

*Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or if air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Thank you for your support of SB 1570.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori-Lei Rawlins-Crivello". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "R".

Lori-Lei Rawlins-Crivello
Co-Owner, Rawlins Service – Texaco

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:42:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Walter Ritte | Individual | Comments | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support the intent to quickly resolve this serious lack of reliable air service for Molokai. I do not support the idea of the solution being Expanding the Molokai Airport. Hawaiian and Aloha Airline Jets once serviced Molokai for many years, as well as many smaller airlines with local ties. Expanding our airport will have major impacts on our entire islands future, some good and some bad. That issue of expansion will need a full and complete vetting by all of us who live on Molokai!

Walter Ritte

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:10:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Alexa VT Dudoit | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante, and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs.

My name is Alexa V T Dudoit I am a resident of Molokai, Maui County, Hawaii.

Since 2021, we have had only one Airline, Mokulele Airlines. Delays and cancellations are common. We rely on this only form of transportation to leave and return to Molokai.

We recently faced the closure of our only airline for six days in January 2025. Patients could not make their medical appointments, residents could not get home from surgery, and children and kupuna garnering cancer treatments were stuck on Oahu or could not leave Molokai.

Our community members have had to ride boats and charter private flights to get home from Honolulu, Maui, and the mainland. Our students and children participating in off-island school and or extracurricular activities also had to use these privately owned boats and planes with added expense.

This letter is in SUPPORT of SB 1570 to:

*Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai Airport in the fiscal budget of 2025-2026.

* Require the governor to DECLARE a STATE OF EMERGENCY and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours;

* Require the Department of Transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at the Molokai Airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of Hawaii Air National Guard to provide essential air service;

* Use private contractors to provide essential air service;

*Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or if air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Thank you for your support of SB 1570.

Sincerely,

Alexa vT Dudoit

P.O. Box 1073

Kaunakakai, Molokai, HI 96748

Phone contact: 808-283-0139

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:07:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM



| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Rob Stephenson | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this measure.

Our island needs your help and leadership.

Siincerely,

Rob Stephenson
Molokai Resident
808-658-0608
mkkrob@me.com

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS, and
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

February 6, 2025, 3:05pm
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

LATE

SB1570 - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Elefante and Lee, Vice Chair Wakai and Inouye, and Respected Committee Members,

SB1570: Purpose of this Act:

- (1) Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers if air transportation service is unavailable, or foreseeably unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours; and*
- (2) Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

I SUPPORT this bill in its ENTIRETY. I believe that both purposes proposed in this Act are blended, interrelated, and addressing one will help to address the other.

I am part of a large ohana, with soon to be 6 generations born here. I say this not out of possessiveness, but to convey my sincere love for, and personal roots on Molokai. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my testimony and the reasons why I support this bill.

We are extremely thankful to have Senator DeCoite, but Senator DeCoite can't do it alone. Both she, and we, need your support. Molokai needs partners to face this crisis, or Molokai will face this situation again, and so will the State. The farther we push this out the greater costs will be – to human welfare and to the State.

EMERGENCY POWERS – IN SUPPORT

The bill's preamble is true, we have “resorted to unsafe, makeshift” transportation – out of DESPERATION.

The most concerning transportation problem comes down to one salient issue: Medical access.

The rest then fall into place. You'll hear firsthand, compelling personal stories – there's no shortage. What deserves attention most is the impacts that unreliable air service causes, and how it's compounding people's medical issues as each missed or late visit happens.

To say Molokai needs access to reliable transportation is an understatement.

To say Molokai needs reliable access to medical care is even more of an understatement.

Because the reality is, so many of our residents have found they have no other recourse but to compromise and go without.

THEY ARE:

- **FOREGOING APPOINTMENTS,**
- **FOREGOING TREATMENTS, and**
- **FOREGOING DIASGNOSES**

It's a bigger problem than is being acknowledged. The tremendous costs in time, money and health – and the stress caused in dealing with this – is incalculable. It's reasonable to expect the basic level of access that's available to all other islands – should also be available to Molokai.

Allowing the Governor to use emergency powers, with the suggestion of prioritizing medical access, will provide a needed temporary solution, but there is no doubt that **a LONG-TERM SOLUTION should also BE THE PRIORITY.**

RUNWAY EXPANSION – IN SUPPORT

There is consensus on Molokai that we don't want to become densely populated like Oahu, and I wholeheartedly agree. We also need to acknowledge the reasons why we only have one airline, and the serious problems it's causing to the health and welfare of our community.

Even an airline that belong to a larger national regional service can't pencil a profit with a 9-seater on Molokai. Carriers that service us need a business model that have fewer daily flights carrying more people. This is why we need to expand our runway.

We certainly don't need to expand the runway to receive jumbo jetliners, but we can set parameters to receive planes that could bring us back to our 1990 visitor numbers. These are not more visitors, but familiar numbers our community has experienced in the past.

Molokai had various types of larger jets in the past – Aloha Airlines 127-seater Boeing 737-200 jets and Hawaiian Airlines Boeing 123-seater 717-200 jets. But because of increased federal regulations and restrictions, they no longer could land on our shorter runway.

Our past visitor numbers also supported more consistent air transportation, a stronger local economy, job stability and the ability for more local businesses to thrive – providing our community more choices and more opportunities. And there would be no need to develop additional infrastructure to support these numbers – but, we would have the opportunity to return to past operational capacities that we're familiar with.

Molokai Annual Visitor Arrivals

| YR | VISITORS | YR | VISITORS | YR | VISITORS | YR | VISITORS | MONTHLY AVERAGE: | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|------------------|--------------|
| 1990 | 103,477 | 2000 | 64,559 | 2010 | 49,709 | 2020 | 17,025 | 1990-1999 | 7,227 |
| 1991 | 89,381 | 2001 | 70,233 | 2011 | 55,250 | 2021 | 25,758 | 2000-2009 | 6,136 |
| 1992 | 115,684 | 2002 | 75,134 | 2012 | 53,323 | 2022 | 43,317 | 2010-2019 | 4,810 |
| 1993 | 94,179 | 2003 | 94,106 | 2013 | 55,157 | 2023 | 33,224 | 2020-2024 | 2,486 |
| 1994 | 79,135 | 2004 | 72,099 | 2014 | 60,100 | 2024 | 29,844 | | |
| 1995 | 83,109 | 2005 | 73,506 | 2015 | 64,767 | | | | |
| 1996 | 77,470 | 2006 | 86,335 | 2016 | 58,932 | | | | |
| 1997 | 79,922 | 2007 | 83,164 | 2017 | 57,998 | | | | |
| 1998 | 75,245 | 2008 | 68,883 | 2018 | 58,885 | | | | |
| 1999 | 69,657 | 2009 | 48,339 | 2019 | 63,035 | | | | |
| <u>867,259</u> | | <u>736,358</u> | | <u>577,156</u> | | <u>149,168</u> | | | |

SOURCE: Hawaii Tourism Authority, Historical Visitor Statistics
 Page: <https://www.hawaii tourism authority.org/research/historical-visitor-statistics/>
 Spreadsheet: <https://www.hawaii tourism authority.org/media/13662/historical-visitors-through-2023-final-11-14-24.xlsx>

Most importantly, we could begin resolving the serious transportation problems that are intensifying the grave health and safety issues happening in our community.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my mana'o.

With Warmest Aloha,

Dawn Bicoy
Molokai Resident
Maunaloa, Hawaii

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:43:43 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Senator Chair Lee and Senator Chair Elefante:

I am a resident of Molokai, Maui County Hawaii, and since 2021 we have had only one airline, Mokulele, the delays, and cancelations are common, and we as residents to rely on this only form of transportation. We recently faced the closure of our only airlines Mokulele, while patients couldn't make their medical appointments, residents trying to get home from surgery.

We had boats, and chartered flights to serve our purposes of getting back home or to Honolulu or Maui.

Our students, and children face and board late night flights.

This letter is in strong support and testimony for bill SB1570, for the following assistance to:

- To provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget of 2025 – 2026.
- Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours;
- Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service;
- The use of private contractors to provide essential air service;
- Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or If air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Mahalo nui loa,

Iolani Kuoha

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:05:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| APRIL PIILANI AUGUSTIRO | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a resident of Molokai, Maui County Hawaii, since i was 8 years old. My parents raised us on Hawaiian Homestead, and i am the oldest of 6 children. The health and welfare of our people will always be my greatest concern, and when that is compromised, it becomes unacceptable. The closure of our only airlines a few weeks ago put a strain on many of our people, and although many helped to make other accomodations possible, there were still many that were not able to make necessary appointments because the alternate form of tranportation would not have been easy nor safe for them. Neither could we get the necessary medical specialist here because of this as well.

This is my letter in support and testimony for bill SB1570 for the following assistance to:

- Require the Governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services available to and from the island of Molokai for longer than 24 hours.
- Utilize private contractors to provide essential air service, using of air carriers to provide cargo services to and from Molokai and to provide essential passenger service, or to provide other means of transportation if that is unavaiable.
- Require the department of transporation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft, as well as Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service.
- Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget 2025-2026

In lieu of the events that have been happening with us only having 1 airline carrier for years now, we are in dire need and would like to support the passing of this bill to help us out here, on the island of Molokai.

Mahalo Nui Loa

In Support of SB1570

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

February 7, 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is John Pele, and I am a resident of Molokai, Maui County, Hawaii.

Since 2021, we have had only one airline, Mokulele Airlines. The delays and cancelations are common. We rely on this only form of transportation to leave and return to Molokai.

We recently faced the closure of our only airlines for six days in January 2025. Patients could not make their medical appointments, residents could not get home from surgery, children and kupuna garnering cancer treatments were stuck on Oahu or could not leave Molokai.

Our community members have had to ride boats and charter private flights to get home from Honolulu, Maui, and the mainland. Our students and children participating in off-island school and/or extra-curricular activities also had to use these privately owned boats and planes.

This letter is in strong support of SB1570 to:

*Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget of 2025 – 2026.

*Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours.

*Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service;

*Use private contractors to provide essential air service;

*Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or If air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Thank you for your support of SB 1570.

Sincerely,

John Pele

PO Box 203

Maunaloa HI 96770

Johnpele84@gmail.com

808-658-5114

In Support of SB1570

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

February 7, 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is Denise Kawano and I am a resident of Molokai, Maui County, Hawaii.

Since 2021, we have had only one airline, Mokulele Airlines. The delays and cancelations are common. We rely on this only form of transportation to leave and to return to Molokai.

My husband and I missed three Nephrology and Oncology appointments last year and once more on January 17. This was all due to cancelled flights or grounding by Mokulele.

Our community members has had to ride boats and charter private flights to get home from Honolulu, Maui, and the mainland. Our students and children participating in off-island school and/or extra-curricular activities also had to use these privately owned boats and planes.

This letter is in strong support of SB1570 to:

*Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget of 2025 – 2026.

*Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours;

*Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service;

*Use private contractors to provide essential air service;

*Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or If air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Thank you for your support of SB 1570.

Sincerely,

Denise Kawano

PO Box 1806

Kaunakakai, HI. 96748

denikawano@gmail.com

808 336-0321

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:50:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:09:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senator Lee and Senator Elefante,

I am in support of SB 1570. Having grown up Molokai and living there for a time in my adulthood. Island Air, Mokulele, and Makani Kai offered flights several times daily. Now, flights need to be booked far in advance. Friends and family have experienced abrupt cancellations without adequate notice.

The unpredictability weighs heavily on families, communities, and impacts tourism-vital to Hawai'i's economy.

Thank you for addressing this matter. I look forward to seeing momentous change.

Mahalo, Rochelle

In Support of SB1570

February 7, 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Wakai and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is David Mikami. I am almost 84 years old and I was a pharmacist for 50+ years at Molokai Drugs. I am a part-owner of Molokai Drugs and have been a Kaunakakai resident since 1969.

Since 2021, we have had only one airline, Mokulele Airlines, servicing Molokai. This is very unfortunate that we only have one option for people like me and my wife who rely on seeing some of our doctors in Honolulu.

My wife is 81 years old and recently had to fly back to Honolulu to see her doctor. She had to cancel and change her flights and doctor's appointment three times. We are fortunate that we both can still drive in Honolulu and have places to stay when Mokulele Airlines cancels or changes our flights.

Many of my former patients and customers are no longer able to travel off-island due to weight limitations, health reasons, and, primarily, the cost of a roundtrip ticket being over \$200 when not on a corporate account.

We need more than one way to leave Molokai. We need options. Thank you for your support of SB1570.

Sincerely,
David Mikami
Retired Community Pharmacist
P.O. Box 558
Kaunakakai, HI 96748
Home 808-553-5603

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:00:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 9, 2025

RE: Upcoming Hearing for SB1570

Measure Title: RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

Report Title: Governor; DOT; Emergency Management; Emergency Powers;
Essential Transportation Service; Essential Air Travel; Molokai; Lanai;
Runway Expansion; Report to Legislature; Appropriation (\$)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I am in support of Senate Bill 1570 as I believe it will provide a much-needed service to the people that live on or visit the islands of Moloka'i and Lana'i. Thank you for introducing this bill, and I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony regarding it.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

February 9, 2025

LATE

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante, and Committee Members:

I am supporting the passage of SB1579 to enable emergency measures should air transportation to and from the islands of Molokai and Lanai exceed 24 hours to have patients/passengers to get to their destination(s), whether it is medical or business or a connection.

Living on Molokai has taught me to accept the fact that we do experience limited resources in many areas, including health, education, housing, business, and other areas of living. However, we do live in a rural and remote area that also has challenges related to access to services off-island that can be done primarily by air transportation. Sea travel is an option, but not for people who are often compromised with health issues that prohibit them from sailing much less fly.

The stress that the current air carrier has caused the communities of Molokai and Lanai should not happen. There are many, many incidents that finger the cancellations, delays, mis or non-communication between the airline and passengers, etc. that should and need to be mitigated for the people's sake. This is basic respect that should be given to recipients of air travel.

Thank you for considering SB1570 and passing the necessary emergency measure(s) to help these islands. I realize that this is just part of a larger picture of concern, and I hope that awareness through the measure will improve the air service(s) for our communities.

Sincerely,
/s/ Judith Mikami

Judith Mikami
Lifelong Molokai Resident
P O Box 558
Kaunakakai, HI. 96748
Cell/Text: 808-658-0710

LATE

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:58:59 AM
Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

In Support of SB1570

[COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS](#)

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

[COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS](#)

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

February 7, 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is Stephanie Smith RN, and I am a resident of Molokai, Maui County, Hawaii. I work in Maui county and service patients in Maui county, all 3 islands.

Since 2021, we have had only one airline, Mokulele Airlines. The delays and cancelations are common. We rely on this only form of transportation to leave and to return to Molokai.

We recently faced the closure of our only airlines for six days in January 2025. Six days is generous as I certainly did not hear many flights going back and forth. Patients could not make their medical appointments, residents could not get home from surgery, children and kupuna garnering cancer treatments were stuck on Oahu or could not leave Molokai. Medical professionals could not take care of patients. We need to travel in the rural areas.

Our community members has had to ride boats and charter private flights to get home from Honolulu, Maui, and the mainland. \$3000.00 to charter, that is shameful for our state. Our students and children participating in off-island school and/or extra-curricular activities also had to use these privately owned boats and planes. How are we treating our residents?

This letter is in strong support of SB1570 to:

*Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget of 2025 – 2026.

*Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours;

*Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service;

*Use private contractors to provide essential air service;

*Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or If air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Thank you for your support of SB 1570.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Smith RN

2756 Kamehameha V Hwy

Molokai HI 96748

425-238-6832

808-634-5327

LATE

In Support of SB1570

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

February 10, 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is Annette Kord and I am a prior resident of Molokai, Maui County, Hawaii. We lived on Molokai from October 2015 to March 2024. Since 2021 Molokai has had only one transportation provider, Mokulele Airlines., Delays and cancellations were common. and we had to rely on this only form of transportation to get to medical appointments and return back home. For the last 3 years on Molokai to get to a specialist on Oahu, I had to fly one to two days prior, get a hotel room and hope I was able to get home after. The costs of airfare, accommodations were not sustainable for us.

This bill is too late for us, but I hope it passes and provides much needed relief for the people of Molokai.

This letter is in strong support of SB1570 to:

*Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget of 2025 – 2026.

*Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours;

*Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service;

*Use private contractors to provide essential air service;

*Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or If air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Thank you for your support of SB 1570.

Sincerely,

Annette Kord

168 Estate Loop Trl

Crossville, TN 38555

Annette@KordInformationSystems.com

808-558-8111

Previous Address:

8320 Kamehameha V Hwy

Kaunakakai, HI 96748

LATE

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:08:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Yes we do need our runway extended so planes such as the ones Hawaiian flew here can land without heavy usage of landing equipment. Please keep it so that we do not create more traffic and investors from invading and buying up ur island. This is a farmers island.



Ph: 808-523-0445 Fax: 808-356-3380

Hawaii Kidney Specialists

In Support of SB1570

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Senator Chris Lee, Chair
Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

LATE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

February 9, 2025

Dear Chair Lee, Chair Elefante and Committee Members of Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Public Safety and Military Affairs:

My name is Leilani Ka'anehe, MD. I am a physician specializing in the field of Nephrology and I am the Medical Director of the Fresenius Medical Care Liberty Molokai Dialysis Center. I have been providing Nephrology care to the island of Molokai, Maui County, Hawaii since 2002. I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I was flying to Molokai two times a month to provide care to patients with chronic kidney disease and servicing patients on chronic hemodialysis - including in-center at the Fresenius Kidney Care Liberty Molokai Dialysis Center and to those that are on home hemodialysis.

Post-pandemic, it has been a challenge to provide medical services to the residents of Molokai, due to the inconsistent flight schedule of Mokulele including delayed and canceled flights. I now go to Molokai quarterly and stay for two days. The flight schedule is unreliable, and I have been late to my clinic and have had several instances in which I had to leave my Molokai clinic early to make it to the airport in time, requiring me to reschedule patients.

There are 44 patients requiring in-center hemodialysis and receiving dialysis treatment 3 times a week with each dialysis treatment averaging 3.5 to 4.5 hours each session. The home dialysis patients also require assistance with nurses that travel from Maui to visit the patients monthly. Dialysis patients rely on assistance with vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists to maintain their dialysis access and require frequent visits to Honolulu for routine follow-up care. When dialysis access is malfunctioning or thrombosed, patients require urgent procedures on Oahu that are life-sustaining.

The lack of reliable transportation on the island of Molokai is a disservice to the people of Molokai. It is an unnecessary burden physically, financially, and emotionally. I have had patients fall when trying to board or deplane Mokulele. In the past, larger planes allowed patients to be safely wheeled via a ramp.

Since 2021, we have had only one airline, Mokulele Airlines. The delays and cancellations are common. We rely on this only form of transportation to leave and return to Molokai.

We recently faced the closure of our only airline for six days in January 2025. Patients could not make their medical appointments, residents could not get home from surgery, children and kupuna garnering cancer treatments were stuck on Oahu or could not leave Molokai.

Our community members has had to ride boats and charter private flights to get home from Honolulu, Maui, and the mainland. Our students and children participating in off-island school and/or extra-curricular activities also had to use these privately owned boats and planes.

This letter is in strong support of SB1570 to:

*Provide the necessary funds for the expansion of the design and planning for the runway for Molokai airport in the fiscal budget of 2025 – 2026.

*Require the governor to declare a state of emergency and use emergency powers of air transportation services unavailable, to and from the island of Molokai or Lanai for longer than twenty-four hours;

*Require the department of transportation to plan and design an expansion of the runway at Molokai airport to accommodate larger aircraft. Activation and deployment of the Hawaii air national guard to provide essential air service;

*Use private contractors to provide essential air service;

*Use of air carriers providing cargo service to and from Molokai and Lanai to provide essential passenger service; or If air service cannot be procured or completed, use of waterborne or maritime craft and carriers to ferry impacted residents.

Thank you for your support of SB 1570.



Sincerely,

Leilani Ka'anehe, MD

Hawaii Kidney Specialists

1520 Liliha Street, Suite 601

Honolulu, HI 96817

drkaanehe@hikidney.com

808-523-0445

LATE

LATE

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:36:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

February 10, 2025

Aloha,

The issue of unreliable and untimely air travel to and from Moloka'i and Lāna'ī have long been items of contention and despair for the citizens of our respective communities. There's been countless horror stories of being delayed from 6:30 to 10:30 pm ,left stranded in Honolulu after being told the flight has been cancelled altogether hours later or left without flight information due to the shutdown of Mokulele recently.I've always questioned what agencies regulates or monitors the airlines. And although the FAA and the DOT have been identified as the go to agencies , either they are sleeping at the wheel, consumers not going after them or the government is passing the buck. Senator Lynne DeCoite have met with community several times, Jill Tokuda came to Moloka'i and members of the community met with Alaska Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines but nothing has changed or improved. Absolutely no movement. So, where does it leave us? Nowhere. We have been in dire straits for over 5 years I believe and the situation has not gotten any better. These are trying times and many of us on Moloka'i are becoming bitter. We feel like we are being forgotten, that we live in a third world country and our government is not taking care of us. So, desperate situations require desperate measures.i support SB 1570 as an act of desperation. We are and have been in a state of emergency for years. Whatever it takes to get airlines interested in doing business on Moloka'i do it. Cut red tape, bring in the military planes, extend the runway - whatever it takes, do it Governor Green. I've called Schatz, Hirono, Tokuda and Ed Case offices and no one returned my call or email. I think this bill serves the purpose of emergency air travel if service is unavailable for longer than 24 hours. Ok that's a step, How about getting more airlines committed to coming to Moloka'i period. If nothing happens, I suggest we all give Tullsi Gabbard a call so she can hook us up to the President. Or better yet, maybe we should all call President Trump.

Desperate situations require desperate measures.

Allof you elected officials have the opportunity to make this right. People are suffering on Moloka'i with healthcare options that aren't the greatest and need to travel off island for treatment is a reality for many including expectant mothers. Added stress like cancelled flights or

long delays add to the anxiety and distress of our people.
Do what is right.
May God be with us all.

Respectfully submitted,

Deldrine Kapuni Manera

LATE

LATE

SB-1570

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:54:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2025 3:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Tara Rojas | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1570: this is a gateway to developing Molokai, increased tourism, and unwanted and unintended consequences. 'A'OLE. No to larger runways on Molokai. Build better hospital infrastructure on Molokai. Keep Molokai, Molokai.