

LATE

HCR-144

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:31:56 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/19/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malcolm Lau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to voice my strong support for HCR144 to request the Department of Transportation to designate the reef runway as the **Frank T. Okimoto Reef Runway**.

Hawaii has always been thoughtful and respectful in providing personal names to important pillars of our State. The Reef Runway is certainly an important pillar of Hawaii and this engineering feat was rightfully awarded accolades by the *American Society of Civil Engineers*, the *National Society of Professional Engineers*, and the from the *Federal Aviation Administration*. The construction of the Reef Runway resulted in lower noise pollution and allowed large commercial and military aircraft to take off safely while also enabling the safe arrival of tourists that help to drive a large segment of our revenue and job base in the State.

The Reef Runway would not have been a successful endeavor without the leadership and foresight of its Project Engineer, the late Frank T. Okimoto. Mr. Okimoto took careful thought in leading this project to ensure that balancing the commercial nature of this large-scale project and ensuring the natural environment surrounding the project were in harmony. The construction of the Reef Runway resulted in very little environmental impact on the surrounding areas and Mr. Okimoto ensured that the water quality in the area was improved and that the indigenous bird population in the area were also cared for and supported. There's only a very few people in this world that have this wonderful ability to think holistically to care for all stakeholders involved and impacted by a project of this significance. Mr. Okimoto is one of them. This is why the Reef Runway is called "Frank's Runway".

I applaud the Legislators for the wisdom in authoring this resolution. Based on the foregoing, I highly support the Department of Transportation to designate the Reef Runway as the Frank T. Okimoto Reef Runway in recognition of Mr. Okimoto's vision, leadership, and ability to balance the commercial nature of his work, while supporting and caring for the beautiful environment of Hawaii.

Mahalo

LATE

HCR-144

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:46:47 AM

Testimony for TRN on 3/19/2021 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
R. Scott Simon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony by: R. Scott Simon, P.E. (Hawaii resident with Calif. engineering license)

Testimony in Support of HCR 144: DESIGNATION OF THE REEF RUNWAY AS THE FRANK T. OKIMOTO REEF RUNWAY.

The Reef Runway at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport is truly an unsung hero among our state's critical infrastructure: essential to tourism and air travel of local residents; vital to the air transport of essential goods and supplies; and innovative as the world's first major runway built offshore – creating the vast acreage required in an innovative and environmentally responsible way.

Likewise, the expert, committed work of civil engineers throughout Hawai'i can often be taken for granted. While educators and business leaders urge the promotion of STEM learning and careers, an impactful way to draw positive attention to excellence and achievement by homegrown engineering talent within the State of Hawai'i Dept. of Transportation would be through the designation of the Reef Runway as the "Frank T. Okimoto Reef Runway."

Frank T. Okimoto embodied STEM and environmental stewardship decades before those terms gained popularity. Educated at Roosevelt High School and the University of Hawai'i, Mr. Okimoto was an airports civil engineer from 1967 until his untimely passing in 1978. Today, approximately forty-three years later, Mr. Okimoto's dedication to betterment of our community through pioneering infrastructure engineering continues to serve us and serve as a professional role model to engineers in the public and private sectors.

As a civil engineer myself by education and earlier career experience, I am struck by the magnitude of national awards earned by the Reef Runway under Mr. Okimoto as project engineer:

- NSPE's Outstanding Engineering Achievements Award in 1977 (only ten awarded nationally);
- FAA's Aviation Environment Award (second time ever awarded).

Such awards indicate a truly remarkable project executed with great care to success.

As a long-time friend to Mr. Okimoto's two daughters and his son, and recently an athletic coach to one of his grandchildren, I can attest that the Okimoto family carries on his traditions of strong character, excellence, and service to the community.

For the above reasons, I strongly support HCR 1444. Thank you for your consideration.

Hawaii State Legislature
House Committee on Transportation
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
Representative Geggor Ilagan, Vice Chair

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Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.R. 122 and H.C.R. 144, requesting the Department of Transportation designate the Reef Runway at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport as the Frank T. Okimoto Reef Runway.

I am Lionel Y. Tokioka and have known Frank Okimoto from 1961 until his passing in 1978. Frank was a dedicated public servant devoted to his work at the Department of Transportation. He took pride in his work and lived by his motto, "whatever you do, be the best you can be." In addition, Frank truly embraced the Aloha Spirit and designating the Reef Runway at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, not only is recognizing the outstanding engineer that Frank Okimoto was, but acknowledging the efforts of a local kid who graduated from Roosevelt High School and the University of Hawaii.

Although Frank left us before his time, these resolutions are paying tribute to not just Frank's accomplishments, but emphasizing the quality and talent our locally born and educated persons have in the State of Hawaii. Frank was proud of the people he worked with and for. He never forgot who he was and where he was from and actively participated in community service. His giving back to the community was so infectious as he enlisted many of his friends, including myself, to participate in his community service activities.

While there is so much more that I could say about why Frank T. Okimoto should be honored with the designation of the Reef Runway as the Frank T. Okimoto Reef Runway, I will close by saying there is no one more deserving than Frank.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Committee in support of H.R. 122 and H.C.R. 144.

Lionel Y. Tokioka

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Aloha Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Ilagan and members of the Transportation Committee

My name is Maizie Okimoto and I am writing in support of HCR144/HR122. I was Frank Okimoto's wife.

Frank loved his family and especially loved taking his family on trips. Our last trip was a road trip in June 1978 to Canada and some national parks in the upper part of the United States.

The engineer in Frank was reflected in his planning for the car we would drive. Of particular importance was the trunk space. Frank carefully measured the space of various cars. It had to hold our suitcases and simple cooking appliances for quick and easy meals. He had ordered ahead to pick up the car with the correct trunk specifications from a car dealership in Oregon- where our trip began.

Frank's work on the reef runway probably helped him to make good quick decisions on this road trip to keep his family happily travelling for two weeks. He left a legacy of enjoyment in travel to his children. Frank would be happy to know that the Reef Runway he carefully planned has left a similar enjoyment to the many travelers that come and go on it. Naming it in his honor would mean a lot to my family. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.