

MAR 12 2021

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO REVIEW, REVISE,
AND UPDATE PLANS FOR THE DANIEL K. INOUE HONOLULU
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE PANDEMICS,
PRIORITIZE USER EXPERIENCES, ESTABLISH A HAWAII SENSE OF
PLACE, INCORPORATE GREEN BUILDING STANDARDS, AND MODERNIZE
HAWAII'S LARGEST AIRPORT.

1 WHEREAS, in 2019, approximately ten million residents and
2 visitors passed through the Daniel K. Inouye Honolulu
3 International Airport; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Honolulu's largest airport serves as the very
6 first gateway to the United States for countless travelers from
7 East Asia and from around the Pacific Rim; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the airport also serves as the first introduction
10 to Hawaii for visitors who often expect to arrive in a Pacific
11 island paradise; and
12

13 WHEREAS, current infrastructure at the Daniel K. Inouye
14 Honolulu International Airport is a patchwork of different
15 architectural styles and functional designs dating back to
16 statehood; and
17

18 WHEREAS, residents and visitors frequently comment on the
19 airport's concrete terminals, claustrophobic bagging areas, dark
20 curbside pickup areas, and unpleasant views of surrounding
21 industrial areas; and
22

23 WHEREAS, due to the patchwork construction of airport
24 facilities over many years, navigating the airport experience,
25 from its start at the freeway offramp to its culmination at the
26 airline gate, is often unintuitive and disjointed; and
27

28 WHEREAS, in spite of these challenges, the best parts of
29 the airport experience, as commonly cited by residents and
30 visitors, are the open-air atmosphere of certain portions of the
31 airport and, above all, the open and lush gardens and vegetation



1 in some areas that help to create a relaxed, Hawaii sense of
2 place; and

3
4 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has made
5 significant efforts to begin improving the Daniel K. Inouye
6 Honolulu International Airport, including modernizing restrooms,
7 constructing a new mauka concourse, consolidating rental car
8 facilities, and beginning the process of planning a new Diamond
9 Head terminal to add capacity; and

10
11 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation also recently
12 undertook commendable emergency work to rapidly deploy plans and
13 take action to screen passengers at the Daniel K. Inouye
14 Honolulu International Airport during the coronavirus disease
15 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic; and

16
17 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation expects to
18 commence billions of dollars in renovations and new projects at
19 the Daniel K. Inouye Honolulu International Airport once the
20 impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are resolved and the situation
21 has sufficiently stabilized; and

22
23 WHEREAS, until that time, there is an opportunity to
24 reassess future airport plans and priorities to incorporate
25 lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and to address
26 longstanding issues that have impacted resident and visitor
27 experiences at the Daniel K. Inouye Honolulu International
28 Airport; now, therefore,

29
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021,
32 that the Department of Transportation is requested to review,
33 revise, and update plans for the Daniel K. Inouye Honolulu
34 International Airport; and

35
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the update of airport plans
37 should:

- 38
39 (1) Prepare to address future pandemics;
40
41 (2) Prioritize resident and visitor experiences;
42



S.R. NO. 221

- 1 (3) Establish a Hawaii sense of place that maximizes
2 comfortable, open-air design and expands upon the lush
3 gardens, palm trees, and vegetation commonly cited as
4 the best part of the Daniel K. Inouye Honolulu
5 International Airport experience;
6
- 7 (4) Be of architectural significance and cultural
8 relevance to Hawaii;
9
- 10 (5) Include expanded art exhibits, cultural references,
11 and narrative storytelling;
12
- 13 (6) Incorporate modern, green building standards and
14 address climate change considerations;
15
- 16 (7) Update and align airport sustainability goals with the
17 sustainable development goals of Hawaii and the United
18 Nations; and
19
- 20 (8) Address the airport as a whole, which may be done in
21 phases, so as not to perpetuate disjointed planning
22 and design; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
25 Transportation is requested to involve in the planning process:

- 26
- 27 (1) Experts having a history of architectural significance
28 in the State;
29
- 30 (2) Experts having a history of significance in the State
31 for landscape design;
32
- 33 (3) Experts having a history in green building standards
34 and practices;
35
- 36 (4) Experts who are knowledgeable about incorporating
37 educational programming into the planning and design
38 process;
39
- 40 (5) The Chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation;
41 and
42



S.R. NO. 221

1 (6) The Chair of the House Committee on Transportation;
2 and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of
6 Transportation.
7

8
9

OFFERED BY: 

