SENATE RESOLUTION

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

WHEREAS, in 2019, approximately twenty million travelers passed through the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport (HNL); and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's largest airport serves as the very first gateway to the United States for countless visitors from East Asia and from around the Pacific Rim; and

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

WHEREAS, current infrastructure at HNL is a patchwork of different architectural styles and functional designs dating back to statehood; and

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

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

WHEREAS, in spite of these challenges, the best parts of the airport experience, as commonly cited by residents and visitors, are the open-air atmosphere of certain portions of the airport and, above all, the open and lush gardens and vegetation
in some areas that help to create a relaxed, Hawaii sense of place; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has made significant efforts to begin improving HNL, including modernizing restrooms, constructing a new mauka concourse, consolidating rental car facilities, and beginning the process of planning a new Diamond Head terminal to add capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation also recently undertook commendable emergency work to rapidly deploy plans and take action to screen passengers at HNL during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation expects to commence billions of dollars in renovations and new projects at HNL once the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are resolved and the situation has sufficiently stabilized; and

WHEREAS, until that time, there is an opportunity to reassess future airport plans and priorities to incorporate lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and to address longstanding issues that have impacted resident and visitor experiences at HNL; and

WHEREAS, currently, other major airports are similarly rethinking their future plans and placing them on hold in light of the possibility of future pandemics as well as a rapidly evolving revenue environment; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2021, that the Department of Transportation is requested to review, revise, and update plans for HNL; and

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

(1) Prepare to address future pandemics;

(2) Prioritize resident and visitor experience;
(3) Establish a Hawaii sense of place that maximizes comfortable, open-air design and expands upon the lush gardens, palm trees, and vegetation commonly cited as the best part of the HNL experience;

(4) Be of architectural significance and cultural relevance to Hawaii;

(5) Include expanded art exhibits, cultural references, and narrative storytelling;

(6) Incorporate modern, green building standards and address climate change considerations;

(7) Update and align airport sustainability goals with the sustainable development goals of Hawaii and the United Nations;

(8) Address the airport as a whole, which may be done in phases, so as not to perpetuate disjointed planning and design; and

(9) Consider what other airport modernization and renovation projects may increase revenue generation, including the addition of entertainment and other innovative experiences; and

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

(1) Experts having a history of architectural significance in the State;

(2) Experts having a history of significance in the State for landscape design;

(3) Experts having a history in green building standards and practices;

(4) Experts who are knowledgeable about incorporating educational programming into the planning and design process;
(5) The Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Transportation; and

(6) The Chair of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and Director of Transportation.