



**Testimony to the House Committee on Transportation
Monday, January 30, 2012
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 309**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2154 RELATING TO SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA USE
PERMITS**

Chair Souki, Vice Chair Ichiyama, and members of the committee:

The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii supports H.B. No. 2154 which proposes to exempt airport projects necessary to comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations from obtaining a Special Management Area (SMA) permit.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Chapter 205A HRS was created by the Legislature and allowed for “. . . special controls on developments within an area along the shoreline are necessary to avoid permanent losses of valuable resources and the foreclosure of management options, and to ensure that adequate access, by dedication or other means, to public owned or used beaches, recreation areas, and natural reserves are provided. The legislature finds and declares that it is the state policy to preserve, protect, and where possible, to restore the natural resources of the coastal zone of Hawaii.”

It would appear that the time to address the shoreline management issues would be when the facility, in this case a government airport, is first being proposed. Logically, then if there is an impact, the airport should not be built. Once it is built, it would appear to be overly redundant to issue a SMA permit each time any work is being done within the airport facility.

The narrowly worded exemption would expedite airport projects being that are necessary to comply with FAA requirements. Perhaps, given the original intent of Chapter 205A, HRS, the entire airport should be exempt or at the very least granted a SMA permit for the entire facility.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our views.