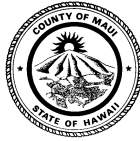


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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
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March 22, 2016

TO: The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair  
House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Mike White  
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White", is written over the name and title in the "FROM:" field.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 23, 2016; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3072 SD 2, RELATING TO AN AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the governor to establish the Hawaii Airport Authority.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this matter. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. On August 4, 2015, Phase 1 of the Airport Access Road in Kahului opened for motorists, providing traffic relief to visitors and residents. Modernization of surrounding infrastructure calls for the timely creation of a Hawaii Airport Authority, which can provide focus and efficiency on improving our outdated airports and support facilities, especially on the Neighbor Islands.
2. The State Department of Transportation plays numerous roles with many constituencies, spanning from harbors to roadways. A single entity with a consolidated jurisdiction will be able to solely focus on operations and long-term planning for our airports. The authority will also allow for community input, while complementing other efforts to revitalize and promote Hawaii's economy.
3. Airports are the first and last impression visitors see of Hawaii, and a positive impression is critical for our long-term success as an international destination. It is vital for us to make the necessary structural changes to emphasize the importance of these values.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.