



STATE OF HAWAII  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
AIR-O  
20.0033

April 24, 2020

Via e-mail: [Melissa.mccaffrey@aopa.org](mailto:Melissa.mccaffrey@aopa.org)

Ms. Melissa McCaffrey  
Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association

Dear Ms. McCaffrey:


Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your inquiry dated April 8, 2020. After careful consideration the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Airports Division (HDOTA) has concluded that operating Dillingham Airfield (HDH) is not in the best interest of the State of Hawaii and has notified the Department of the Army (Army) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that it is exercising its right to terminate the Army Lease effective June 30, 2021.

Dillingham Airfield is the only airport in the HDOTA system that is not owned by the State. There is no requirement for HDOTA to operate the facility and is transferring the airfield back to the Army to manage and maintain based on several factors, including the uncertainty of the short-term lease, risk of losing federal funds, the water system issues, and lack of authority over the facility. In addition, the HDOTA subsidizes a million dollars a year for the operation and maintenance of the airfield.

Discussions have been ongoing with our Federal partners for the past eight years regarding the operation and lease arrangements at HDH.

Per Colonel Thomas Barrett, Commander of the U. S. Army Garrison Hawaii, "The Army appreciates the HDOT support in operating and managing the Dillingham Airfield for more than four decades and is beginning the process of transitioning the facility back to military management. Our staff is diligently working to assess the way forward and is analyzing the possible impacts related to the lease transfer. This will be a detailed process involving extensive coordination with State and Federal agencies. First and foremost, the Army must fulfill its requirements of military training, readiness, response, security and safety. We will not take any action that will impact our ability to fulfill these critical responsibilities."

Sincerely,

  
JADE T. BUTAY  
Director of Transportation