

April 8, 2020

Jade Butay, Director  
Hawai'i Department of Transportation  
869 Punchbowl Street, Room 509  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Director Butay:

On behalf of the thousands of members our associations represent, we strongly urge you to delay the termination of the standing Dillingham Airfield (HDH) lease between the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HI DOT) and the United States Army, scheduled for June 30, 2020 to at least June 30, 2021. This extension of time would allow stakeholders, HI DOT and appropriate state agencies an opportunity to resolve the water infrastructure issues and identify a new sponsor for the airport. Several federal agencies, including the FAA and TSA, have extended their own interagency timelines given the unprecedented nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is time that HI DOT fully acknowledge the pandemic at hand and extend the termination timeline in deference to HDH tenants and businesses, which employ over 130 people.

During this unprecedented time in the United States, nearly every state including Hawai'i has issued stay-at-home orders to ensure our nation 'flattens the curve' of COVID-19. These events have residents of the State sheltering in place and rightly focusing on the wellbeing of themselves and their families. For the tenants, businesses, and employees at HDH, the stress and uncertainty of COVID-19 is compounded by what appears to be a refusal from HI DOT to modify the termination timeline of the lease agreement with the United States Army. While the aviation community at HDH should be focused on their health during this pandemic, they are instead haunted by the fear and pressures of potential relocation, unemployment and a compressed timeline imposed by HI DOT.

Our associations continue to stand ready to assist in finding a solution to these issues once the COVID-19 crisis has come to an end. We strongly urge you to put the HI DOT on a path to protect HDH and the positive economic benefits it brings to the area and to the State. The extension of the termination of lease between the United States Army and HI DOT for an additional year is even more critical than ever. Due to the urgent nature of the current situation and this request, we would appreciate a response from your office by April 22, 2020. Please direct all correspondence to [Melissa.McCaffrey@aopa.org](mailto:Melissa.McCaffrey@aopa.org).

Respectfully,



**United States  
Parachute Association**



Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
Experimental Aircraft Association  
United States Parachute Association  
National Business Aviation Association  
General Aviation Council of Hawai'i  
Soaring Society of America  
Save Dillingham Airfield

Cc: Governor David Ige