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February 22, 2021

The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room #208  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Karl Rhoads  
Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room #204  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senators Dela Cruz, Rhoads and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding SB 1368 SD1, relating to airfields. The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) is the world's largest aviation organization and represents the general aviation interests of over 1,000 members in Hawai'i. **AOPA strongly supports SB 1368 SD1**, legislation that would create the Kawaihapai Airfield Revitalization Task Force to keep Kawaihapai Airfield open.

Kawaihapai airfield provides countless positive community contributions and value to the North Shore and the State of Hawai'i. Kawaihapai Airfield brings over 50,000 visitors from around the world annually to the airfield and the North Shore resulting in a direct economic impact of 12.6 million dollars. Additionally, the airfield is home to 47 based aircraft and 11 airport businesses, including flight schools, soaring, and skydiving operations, who employ more than 130 people. Given the importance of the Kawaihapai Airfield to the North Shore economy and to the health of general aviation, AOPA is interested in bringing our deep insights and expertise of general aviation airports to the Task Force. It is in this spirit that we can add tremendous value to the important work that will be accomplished by this Task Force.

AOPA urges the committee to pass SB 1368 SD1 and supports keeping Kawaihapai airfield open to civil use, ensuring the Airfield remains a strong community asset and home to thriving businesses for years to come. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact me directly at 301-695-2228 or [Melissa.McCaffrey@aopa.org](mailto:Melissa.McCaffrey@aopa.org)

Respectfully,

Melissa McCaffrey  
Regional Manager, Government Affairs  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

**AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION**