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Mr. Ford Fuchigami, Director
Hawai'i Department of Transportation
869 Punchbowl Street, Room 509
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Director Fuchigami:

I am writing today to urge your support in directing the Hawai'i Department of Transportation Airports Division (DoTA) to work with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in applying an approved methodology when calculating reasonable hangar rental rates at public-use airports in Hawai'i.

Moreover, in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulations, airport revenues are required to stay on the airport. Therefore, AOPA strongly recommends DoTA apply any revenue from reasonable rate increases toward constructing new hangars and/or providing maintenance of existing facilities at airports across the state. This long overdue investment in hangars and facilities for general aviation activity would go a long way in improving the current airport infrastructure situation across the state.

As you know, originally, DoTA had proposed a 44% increase for rental rates on airport property. After hearing strong objections to this unreasonable increase the proposal was properly discarded.

I am confident that Deputy Director Higashi is aware that using rates of well-maintained nearby industrial areas in Hawai'i is not a FAA generally accepted approach in determining hangar rates. By following the FAA guidelines for setting rental/lease rates, and working closely with airport tenants, AOPA believes the DoTA can establish hangar rates that are mutually beneficial to both tenants and the sustainability of the aviation community.

We appreciate your time and attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Baker
President and CEO

cc: Ross Higashi, Deputy Director, Hawai'i DOT Airports Division
Dennis Roberts, Regional Administrator, FAA Western Pacific Region
Mark McClardy, Director, Office of Airports, FAA Western Pacific Region
Lacey Spriggs, Acting Manager, FAA Airports District Office, Honolulu
AOPA members, Hawai'i

AIRCRAFT OWNERS AND PILOTS ASSOCIATION