

From: [Bonnie Lofstedt](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for March 12th, 2021 item (M. Others, #7 – Issuance of Revocable Permit for Temporary Space)
Date: Monday, March 8, 2021 8:39:08 AM

Dear BLNR Chairperson, Susanne Case,

The following is testimony for March 12th, 2021 item (M. Others, #7 – Issuance of Revocable Permit for Temporary Space)

We contest unfair rent and accommodations due to grant assurance regulations provided by the Federal government. We continue to question the Hawaii Department of Transportation Airports Division (DOT-A) and find it frustrating that none of its employees are furloughed all while we have been essentially forced closed. The State demanded full rent payments from all operators yet the Airport took Federal COVID funds and have never offered us any real relief.

The leases for various competitive operators at the Lihue Airport continue to be different, which creates an unequal path forward especially during these unprecedented times.

Once again, we ask what the definition of a Fixed Based Operator (FBO) is because this definition has continued to change based on which operator asks the question. We have always been denied this option and were required to sign more expensive leases with a limited timeline and stricter guidelines.

Why can some operators now qualify as an FBO while we were denied the same, based on the similar qualifications? And why are these operators allowed less rent and longer leases all while operating within a loophole?

We had a month-to-month lease for nearly 35 years under a revocable permit. Why is it that all operators cannot be treated equally and go through the same processes that we were required to?

We would hope that the Board Members of the BLNR should expect at all times, honest and truthful testimony from any State employee.

Our frustrations are not with the requesting operator but with the State as we continue to plea that everyone be treated with equality, per grant assurances and the law.

Below is a letter we have sent to Ms. Lareau at the State of Hawaii DOT-A in conjunction with this testimony I am providing for today's meeting.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Bonnie Lofstedt
Island Helicopters Kauai, Inc.

Aloha Ms. Lareau,

Per the attached agenda from the BLNR we see that Airborne Aviation is requesting temporary space to operate.

We understood Craig Davis' (LIH Manager) letter for our recent space request, to state that there was no such thing as temporary space for operations; this goes down the rabbit hole of new operators being able to run an operation at much less expense. We have asked for space and have been rejected.

Are you able to explain what is going on? Craig Davis just told us that all future space has to go up for auction.

We are looking for an explanation to all of the above/past as well as the vision for the future.

Just last week we were sent a letter from Jade Butay (DOT Director) stating we needed to pay our rent; when indeed this letter was not meant for us as we are current on our rent. We are also asking where other operators stand as we assume the letter was written to those who have not paid rent. This also creates more unequal fields for competitive operations. There is an extent to using COVID for an excuse when we have paid our rent (and been forced closed by created regulations from the State).

Thank you for all of your time and consideration. We so understand you have been given a bag of worms to sift through; but it is long overdue to see some true leadership at the State of Hawaii DOT-A. We will send testimony to protest requests for unfair rents and assurances, unless we are given some understanding as to how this and other new operators are continuing to operate at less rent and with more flexibility than we have been offered.

We have lost over a year on our lease; we want to know why we cannot approach anyone at the State with our issues.

Mahalo for your time,

Bonnie Lofstedt

Island Helicopters Kauai, Inc.