

REQUEST TO ACCESS A GOVERNMENT RECORD

This is a model form that may be used by a Requester to provide sufficient information for an agency to process a record request. Although the Requester is not required to use this form or to provide any personal information, the agency needs enough information to contact the Requester with questions about this request or to provide its response. This request may not be processed if the agency has insufficient information or is unable to contact the Requester.

DATE: 03-20-2026

TO: **Department of Transportation**
Agency that Maintains the Government Record

dotpao@hawaii.gov
Agency's Contact Information

FROM: request+6b58ttmcue@foi.uipa.org
Requester's Name or Alias

request+6b58ttmcue@foi.uipa.org
Requester's Contact Information

AS THE REQUESTER, I WOULD LIKE THE FOLLOWING GOVERNMENT RECORD:

Describe the government record as specifically as possible so that it can be located. Try to provide a record name, subject matter, date, location, purpose, or names of persons to whom the record refers, or other information that could help the agency identify the record. A complete and accurate description of the requested government record will prevent delays in locating the record. Attach additional pages if needed.

REQUEST TO ACCESS A GOVERNMENT RECORD

Pursuant to the Uniform Information Practices Act

Chapter 92F, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

Date: March 20, 2026

Agency: Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT)

Submitted via email to: dot.uipa@hawaii.gov

Organization: North Kona Noise ACTION (NKNA)

Preferred format for records: Electronic copies via email (PDF or native format)

Description of Requested Records

Pursuant to Chapter 92F, HRS, I am requesting access to government records maintained by the Hawai'i Department of Transportation, including but not limited to the Airports Division, the Office of the Director, and any other HDOT division or office that may maintain responsive records. This request covers the following categories of records:

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between HDOT and the Hawai'i Seaglider Initiative (HSI). Please provide the complete, executed MOU, including all attachments, exhibits, amendments, and any addenda or renewals. If multiple versions exist, please provide all versions.

All correspondence between HDOT and the Hawai'i Seaglider Initiative, REGENT Craft Inc., and/or David Uchiyama. This includes but is not limited to emails, letters, memoranda, text messages, meeting invitations, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and meeting notes, from January 1, 2023 to the present. This request covers communications to or from any HDOT employee, officer, or contractor, including but not limited to Director Ed Sniffen, Deputy Director for Airports Curt Otaguro, Airports Planning staff (including Traci Lum and Pradip Pant), and any HDOT public affairs or legislative liaison staff.

All records relating to HDOT involvement in drafting, reviewing, or providing input on S.B. 2400 and/or H.B. 2378 (Thirty-Third Legislature, Regular Session of 2026). This includes any drafts, legislative worksheets, bill analysis memoranda, talking points, testimony (whether submitted or not), correspondence with legislators or legislative staff, and any communications with HSI, REGENT Craft, or other entities regarding these measures.

All records relating to the Hawai'i Seaglider Initiative's feasibility study involving HDOT. This includes the Phase IIA and Phase IIB feasibility studies reportedly conducted with HDOT, HCDA, OHA, and DLNR; any HDOT contributions, data, or comments provided for those studies; study scope documents; contracts or agreements between HDOT and any consultant (including SMS Research) related to seaglider feasibility; and draft or final reports.

All records relating to proposed seaglider harbor infrastructure or operations on Hawai'i Island. This includes any site assessments, harbor evaluations, environmental scoping documents, port electrification plans, charging infrastructure studies, or community impact assessments related to seaglider launch/landing operations at any Hawai'i Island harbor or coastal facility, including Kawaihae Harbor, Kailua Bay, and any other location under consideration.

All records relating to coordination between HDOT and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture regarding biosecurity protocols for seaglider interisland passenger and cargo operations. If no such records exist, please confirm that in writing.

Any contracts, financial agreements, or payments between HDOT and REGENT Craft Inc., HSI, David Uchiyama, Hawaii Think Tank, Veronica Rocha, or any entity affiliated with the Hawai'i Seaglider Initiative, from January 1, 2023 to the present.

Scope and Clarifications

This request is intended to be reasonably specific while capturing all relevant records. If HDOT believes any category is overly broad, I am happy to discuss narrowing the scope in good faith. I request that HDOT process each category independently so that available records are not delayed by any single category requiring additional review.

If any records are withheld in whole or in part, I request that HDOT provide a written explanation identifying the specific exemption under Chapter 92F, HRS, relied upon for each withheld record, as required by law.

I am willing to pay reasonable copying and search fees. If the estimated cost exceeds \$100, please notify me before proceeding so that I may narrow the request or authorize the additional expense.

Context for This Request

North Kona Noise ACTION is a community advocacy organization that has filed formal public comments with HDOT regarding the Ellison Onizuka Kona International Airport (KOA) Master Plan Update. We are also engaged in the legislative process regarding S.B. 2400, S.D. 1, which would exempt wing-in-ground craft operators from the Hawai'i Water Carrier Act. This request seeks to understand the relationship between HDOT and the entities advocating for this legislation, and to assess whether adequate consideration has been given to community, environmental, and biosecurity impacts of the proposed seaglider operations—particularly on Hawai'i Island.

I understand that HDOT is required to respond to this request within ten business days pursuant to HRS §92F-11(c). I appreciate the Department's assistance in providing timely access to these public records.

Mahalo for your prompt attention to this request.

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I WOULD LIKE: (Please check one or more of the options below, as applicable)

To inspect the government record

A copy of the government record: (Please check only one of the options below.) See the next page for information about fees and costs that you may be required to pay for agency services to process your record request. Note: Copying and transmission charges may also apply to certain options.

Pick up at agency (**date and time**): _____

Mail (address): _____

E-mail (address): request+6b58ttmcue@foi.uipa.org

Fax (toll free and only if available; provide fax number): _____

Other, if available (please specify): _____

If the agency maintains the records in a form other than paper, please advise in which **format you would prefer to have the record**.

Electronic Audio Other (please specify): _____

Check this box if you are attaching a request for waiver of fees in the public interest (See waiver information on next page).

FEES FOR PROCESSING PUBLIC RECORD REQUESTS

You may be charged fees for the services that the agency must perform when processing your request for public records, including fees for making photocopies and other lawful fees. **The first \$30 of fees charged for searching for a record, reviewing, and segregating will not be charged to you. Any amount over \$30 will be charged to you.** Fees are as follows:

Search for a Record	\$2.50 for 15 minutes
Review and Segregation of a Record	\$5.00 for 15 minutes

Generally, no search, review, and segregation fees may be charged if you are making a request for personal records that are about you.

WAIVER OF FEES IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

As an alternative to the \$30 fee waiver (not in addition to), the agency may waive the first \$60 of fees for searching for, reviewing and segregating records when the waiver would serve the public interest. If you wish to apply for a waiver of fees in the public interest, you must attach to this request a statement of facts, including your identity as the requester, to show how the waiver of fees would serve the public interest. The criteria for this waiver, found at section 2-71-32, Hawaii Administrative Rules, are

- (1) The requested record pertains to the operations or activities of an agency;
- (2) The record is not readily available in the public domain; and
- (3) The requester has the primary intention and the actual ability to widely disseminate information from the government record to the public at large.

COSTS

The Agency may charge you any other lawful fees and the costs to copy and deliver your personal or public record request.

AGENCY RESPONSE TO YOUR REQUEST FOR ACCESS

The agency to which you addressed your request must respond within a set time period. The agency will normally respond to you within 10 business days from the date it receives your request; however, in ***extenuating circumstances***, the agency must respond within 20 business days from the date of your request. If you have questions about the response time or the records being sought, you should first contact the agency and request to consult with the agency's UIPA contact person.

Please note that the Office of Information Practices (OIP) does not maintain the records of other agencies and a requester must seek records directly from the agency. If the agency denies or fails to respond to your written request for records or if you have other questions regarding compliance with the UIPA, then you may contact OIP at 808-586-1400, oip@hawaii.gov, or 250 South Hotel Street, Suite 107, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

REQUESTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

You have certain responsibilities under section 2-71-16, Hawaii Administrative Rules, which include making arrangements to inspect and copy records, providing further clarification or description of the requested record as instructed by the agency's notice, and making a prepayment of fees and costs, if assessed. The rules and additional training materials are available online at oip.hawaii.gov or from OIP.