

MAZIE K. HIRONO
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION, LIFELONG
LEARNING, AND COMPETITIVENESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EARLY CHILDHOOD, ELEMENTARY
AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

**HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE
COMMISSION**

WHIP AT LARGE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

1229 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE: (202) 225-4906
FAX: (202) 225-4987

DISTRICT OFFICE
5104 PRINCE KUHO FEDERAL BUILDING
HONOLULU, HI 96850
PHONE: (808) 541-1986
FAX: (808) 538-0233

NEIGHBOR ISLAND TOLL FREE NUMBERS
BIG ISLAND (808) 935-3756
KAUAI / NI'IIHAU (808) 245-1951
MAUI (808) 242-1818
LANAI (808) 565-7199
MOLOKAI (808) 552-0160

Email: Mazie.Hirono@mail.house.gov
Website: www.house.gov/Hirono

Statement of
Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Aviation

June 6, 2007

Mr. Chairman, as are other members of this committee, I am deeply concerned about travel safety, and a fundamental problem that is involved in all modes of transportation is operator, controller or pilot fatigue.

Based on current known studies on work cycles, sleep, and circadian rhythms (the 24 hour biological clock), current fitness-for-duty rules are inadequate. Scientific studies have shown that fitness-for-duty should consider, for example, all periods of work and sleep for several days preceding the duty as well as the amount and type of transmeridian (east-west or west-east) travel, particularly of pilots flying cross-county.

Industry and various research centers are working with leading fatigue management researchers to develop solutions for the management of operator fatigue in all forms of transportation including specifically aviation.

Together with several leading researchers in the field, Archinoetics, a Hawaii-based company, incidentally owned by a woman, has developed and are working with software tools like the Schedule Fatigue Risk Management (SFRM) tool. SFRM uses validated scientific models of cognitive impairments to rapidly assess work schedules.

The same Hawaii company has developed monitors that directly tie-in to the SFRM making it possible to accurately measure and record fatigue and other bodily functions. It is important to note that both the SFRM and monitors are not specific to pilots; they can be used with operators, crew, and controllers and for other modes of transportation, including truck drivers and train crews.

It can identify those operators that are overly fatiguing and therefore pose an excess risk for operator-related errors. Some of this technology is currently being used by both small and large commercial fleet operators, and also with aviation union representatives.

I submitted an authorization request for another device to monitor precise cognitive and physiologic functioning on warfighters operating in the stress of combat. Archinoetics is also the developer of that important technology that will help save lives and improve the capabilities of our troops. The authorization request was recently approved by the Armed Services Committee and will hopefully be approved by the full House.

The safety of our traveling public must be protected with every means possible, including application of new technologies. We must ensure that the most current and promising methodologies and tools, particularly in the area of fatigue management, are being implemented.