



# Aloha E Komo Mai

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## LĪHU'E AIRPORT OPTIMIZATION PLAN



# About the Project

## OVERVIEW OF LAOP

Based on feedback from the 2022 Master Plan Update, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation launched the Līhu'e Airport Optimization Plan (LAOP) to address current challenges. The plan focuses on improving safety, efficiency, sustainability, and the passenger experience by making better use of existing facilities—without expanding the airport's footprint.



## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Focus on enhancing safety, efficiency, environmental sustainability, and passenger experience of LIH
- Provide a plan that sets a course for necessary improvements to LIH
- Proposed improvements sized to meet current demand

## WHY WE ARE DOING THIS

LAOP is focused on optimizing and refining existing infrastructure rather than expanding or adding gates. Every improvement is aimed at addressing immediate needs and enhancing airport operations in ways that reflect the values and feedback of the community.





# Passenger Terminal Priorities



Critical Projects	
Priority Number	Description
1	Add Holdroom and Passenger Boarding bridge to Existing Hard Stand Gate 10A
2	Expand and enclose all four (4) existing Hold Rooms
3	Baggage Handling System Upgrades (Inline System is in Preliminary Design)
4	Additional Public Parking
6	TSA Checkpoint Expansion & Enclosure (Keep One Satellite Checkpoint)
8	Restroom Expansion (Add Family Restrooms)

Other Projects	
Priority Number	Description
10	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Screening Upgrades (Check-In Area)
11	USDA Screening Upgrades (All Holdrooms)
12	Increase Number of Lanes Serving Curb Front/Create Commercial Curb
13	Wayfinding Plan and Implementation
14	Structural Assessment
15	Expand Shuttle Parking/Pick Up/Drop Off Lanes
21	Consolidate Transportation Network Company (e.g., Uber/Lyft) Pickup Area

Other Projects	
Priority Number	Description
25	Expand Hawaiian Lounge
26	Expand Ticket Counter Area
27	Expand Check-In Queuing Area

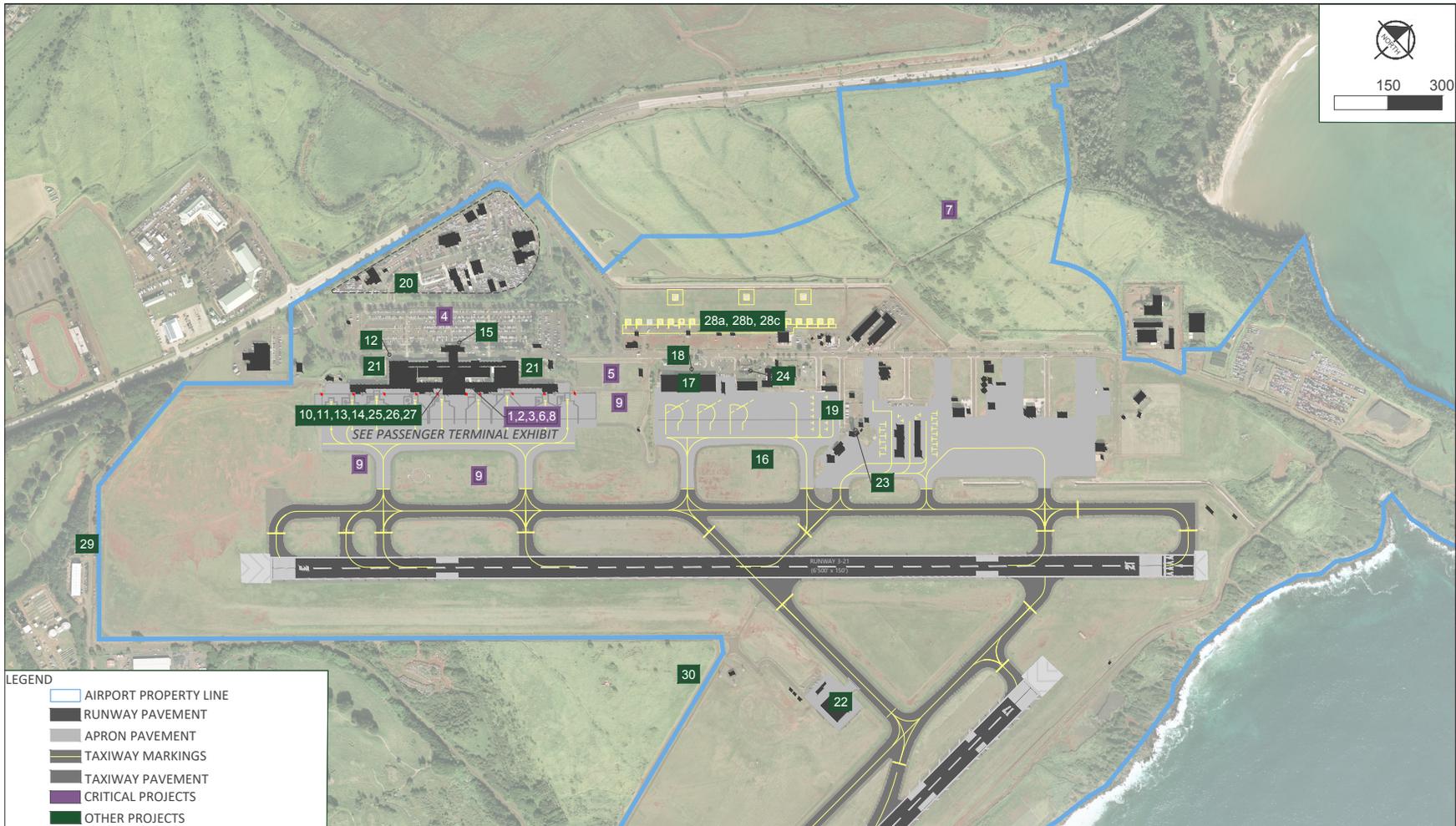
**LEGEND**

- CRITICAL PROJECTS
- OTHER PROJECTS

NOTES: PROJECTS 13 AND 14 ENCOMPASS THE ENTIRE TERMINAL AREA.  
 SOURCES: Hawaii Department of Transportation, 2025; Kimley-Horn, 2025.



# Airport Priorities



**LEGEND**

- AIRPORT PROPERTY LINE
- RUNWAY PAVEMENT
- APRON PAVEMENT
- TAXIWAY MARKINGS
- TAXIWAY PAVEMENT
- CRITICAL PROJECTS
- OTHER PROJECTS

Priority Number	Description
1	Add Holdroom and Passenger Boarding bridge to Existing Hard Stand Gate 10A
2	Expand and enclose all four (4) existing Hold Rooms
3	Baggage Handling System Upgrades (Inline System is in Preliminary Design)
4	Additional Public Parking
5	Additional Employee Parking (In Construction)
6	TSA Checkpoint Expansion & Enclosure (Keep One Satellite Checkpoint)
7	Relocated Rental Car Facilities Including Consolidated Shuttle Operations (Electric Vehicles)
8	Restroom Expansion (Add Family Restrooms)
9	Apron Expansion (Pave Infield, Add Remain Overnight Area North of Gate 3, and Design Fee Negotiation)

NOTES: Projects within the Passenger Terminal are shown in greater detail on the Passenger Terminal Priorities.  
SOURCES: Hawaii Department of Transportation, 2023; Kinsey Harris, 2023.

Priority Number	Description
10	United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Screening Upgrades (Check-In Area)
11	USDA Screening Upgrades (All Holdrooms)
12	Increase Number of Lanes Serving Curb Front/Create Commercial Curb
13	Wayfinding Plan and Implementation
14	Structural Assessment
15	Expand Shuttle Parking/Pick Up/Drop Off Lanes
16	Apron Expansion (Pave Infield)
17	Replacement and Expansion of Existing Cargo Building
18	Vehicle Parking Expansion
19	Tie-Down Apron Expansion
20	Develop Cell Phone Waiting Lot
21	Consolidate Transportation Network Company (e.g., Uber/Lyft) Pickup Area

Priority Number	Description
22	Relocate Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Facility
23	Relocate Airport Traffic Control Tower
24	Commuter Terminal Vehicle parking Expansion
25	Expand Hawaiian Lounge
26	Expand Ticket Counter Area
27	Expand Check-In Queuing Area
28a	Relocate Port Allen Helicopter Operations to Lihue Airport
28b	Helipad Expansion (Eastward) & Consolidate all Helicopter Operations into One Area
28c	Helicopter Operations Safety Enhancements
29	Land/Easement Acquisition - Runway 3 Runway Protection Zone (RPZ) Area
30	Land Acquisition - Triangle Area



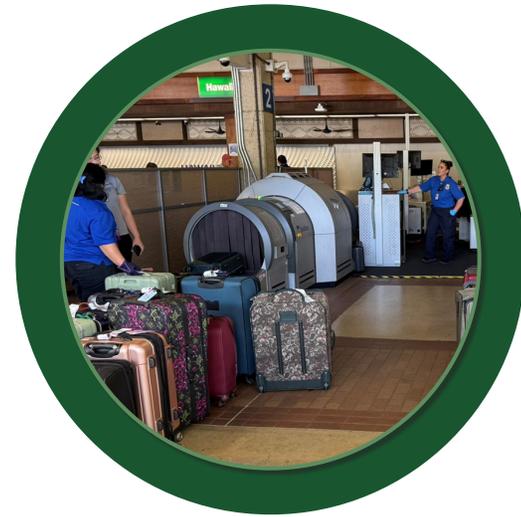


# Airport Overview





# Passenger Terminal Facilities





# Ground Transportation Facilities

## Consolidated and Relocated Rental Car Facility (ConRAC)



Centralizes all rental car operations into one convenient on-airport location



Maintains current rental car capacity while improving efficiency and sustainability



Located north of the helicopter pads and south of Kapule Highway



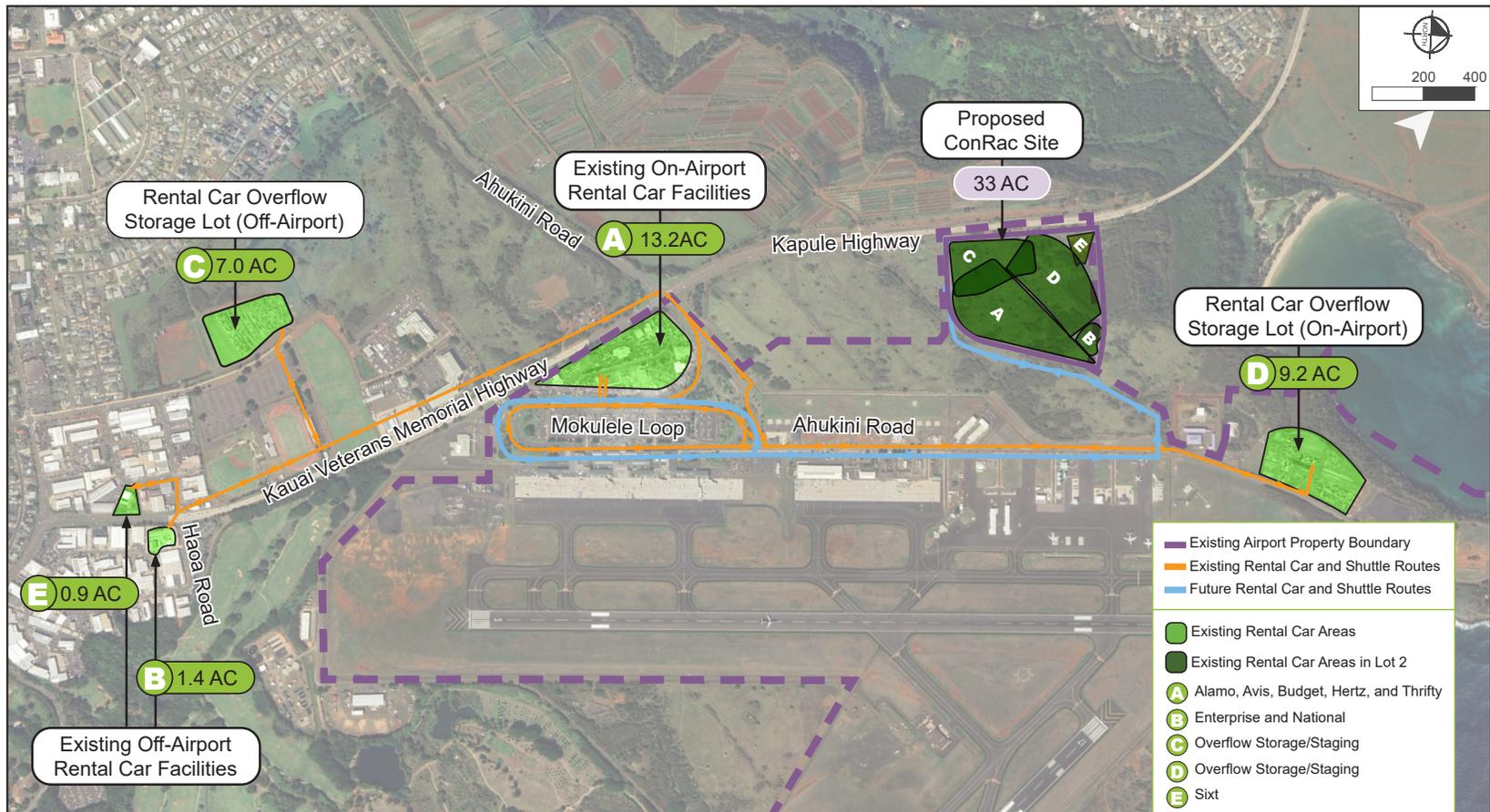
Frees up space for public and employee parking, designated commercial curb, and other airport needs



Land acquired from Grove Farm and funded by rental car concessions



Electric shuttle system will reduce congestion and support state sustainability goals





# Helicopters and General Aviation



## HELICOPTER OPERATIONS AREA

- Consolidate helicopter operations
- Land leasing challenges
- Some operators have split operations
- Fuel line not used
- Advanced Air Mobility vehicles and Sustainable Aviation Fuel



## GENERAL AVIATION AREA

- Limited to no parcels available
- Taxilanes used for helicopter operations
- Limited space available for aircraft parking
- Mixed use by fixed and rotor wing aircraft

