

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2011

Charles K. Edwards
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Drive, SW
Bldg 410 / Mailstop 2600
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Inspector General Edwards:

We, along with our colleagues in Congress, continue to be concerned with the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) management and oversight of its Federal screener operations. The recent proposed firings of a significant number of TSA employees, including members of the TSA's own leadership team, at Honolulu International Airport (HNL) highlight the conflict that exists when TSA acts as both the operator and regulator of the aviation screening programs. It is imperative the Federal agency responsible for maintaining aviation security operates in an effective and efficient manner.

We request your office conduct a complete investigation and thorough review of why a significant portion of the TSA screener workforce at HNL dramatically failed in their performance of critical transportation security screening responsibilities. Specifically, we are interested in the following information:

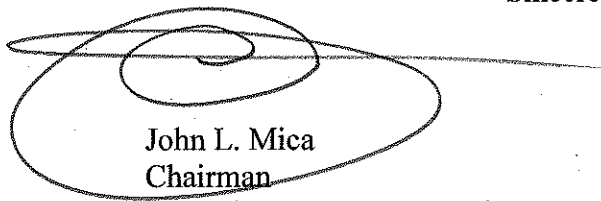
- A complete analysis of the failure of TSA's oversight and supervision of baggage and passenger screening operations, protocols and procedures at HNL.
- A detailed summary of the security system failure.
- A review of HNL Transportation Security Officers (TSO) performance indicators, past evaluations, and all performance related disciplinary actions.
- An examination of whether the initial and recurrent training requirements for TSOs at HNL were current and consistent with national training requirements.

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- The number of individuals involved their title and position, and current wage level.
- Summary of corrective and disciplinary action.
- A review of the TSA's processes to remove non- or underperforming TSO's in general, and at HNL in particular.
- A review of the TSA's plans to staff HNL screening operations until permanent TSO replacements can be hired and trained, and if the TSA plans to deploy the National Deployment Force, an audit of the total cost of such a deployment.

We request you conduct a thorough investigation with a report of your findings and recommendations. Additionally, we request a complete briefing by you and your staff regarding your investigation. Please contact Sean McMaster, with the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at 202-226-8048 and Mitchell Kominsky with the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform at 202-225-5074 with any questions.

Sincerely,



John L. Mica
Chairman
Committee on Transportation
& Infrastructure



Jason Chaffetz
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
Homeland Defense and Foreign
Operations
Committee on Oversight &
Government Reform