



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park
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Hawaii National Park, Hawai'i 96718



April 25, 2023

Memorandum

From: Rhonda Loh, Superintendent, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park

Subject: Mokulele Airlines (Southern Airways) Seat Fare Exemption Request

The National Park Service has an operational need to quickly transport personnel between Hawaii Volcanoes National Park (HAVO) and Kalaupapa National Historic Park (KALA). KALA is located on an isolated peninsula on the north side of the Island of Molokai and only accessible (for crews and equipment travelling from HAVO) by airplane. There are no DOI contracted fixed-wing aircraft in the state of Hawaii. Current commercial options available are logistically not feasible, requiring three flight segments with weight and size limitations for passengers and equipment specific to each segment. These logistical restrictions make the transport of equipment, personnel, and provisions difficult. Seat Fare purchases would be point-to-point between the Hilo Airport (ITO) and Kalaupapa Airport (LUP), and the National Park Service would be responsible for payment for seat fares.

Mokulele Airlines is operated by Southern Airways and offers regular service to LUP that originates at the Molokai Airport (MKK), but there are no direct flights from ITO to MKK.

There is an operational requirement for the National Park Service to transport personnel between HAVO and KALA. Since there are no available fleet or DOI contracted aircraft to meet this need we request an exemption to purchase seat fares as per Operational Procedures Memoranda (OPM) -15.

Regional Aviation Manager Concurrence:

National Aviation Manager Approval:

Associate Director Visitor and Resource Protection Approval:

Office of Aviation Services Approval:

