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**NEWS From:**

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**Congressman Mike Honda**

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FIFTEENTH DISTRICT - CALIFORNIA

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**For Immediate Release:**  
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Contact: Ernest Baynard (202) 225-2631

**President Signs Aviation Bill That Includes  
Honda Technology Pilot Program for 20 U.S. Airports**

**Washington D.C.**—Today President Bush signed comprehensive federal aviation security legislation that included a key provision authored by Silicon Valley Congressman, Mike Honda, (D-San Jose) that will launch a nationwide pilot program in twenty or more U.S. airports to test the new and emerging security technology. The measure, which is also part of freestanding legislation introduced by Honda and Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT) on October 10<sup>th</sup> of this year, could dramatically improve airport security by promoting the development and use of cutting edge technology, such as fingerprint authentication, Global Position System applications, retinal scanning and face, hand and voice recognition. The pilot program is a product of numerous meetings and demonstrations between Honda, a member of the House Aviation Subcommittee, top Silicon Valley executives, the FAA, FBI, Bay Area Airport officials and other Members of Congress.

**“Launching a nationwide initiative that allows the federal government, high tech companies and our nation’s airports to work together to formulate a comprehensive, technology-driven aviation security system is absolutely essential if we are to keep our airways safe and restore confidence in the flying public,”** said Honda. **“I look forward to continuing the successful partnership that we have created between the federal government, business leaders and local officials to implement a 21<sup>st</sup> century security policy for our airports and airways.”**

Under the new law, the newly created Under Secretary of Transportation for Security must review the effectiveness of biometric systems and other “commercially available measures” that are designed to ensure authorized access to secure areas on airplanes and at airports and make recommendations to airport operators within the next six months. In addition to pushing for the creation of the pilot program, Honda worked behind the scenes during the past several weeks with Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) to push for a strong technology component in the final version of the airline security bill. Lieberman authored several important provisions in the new law that address the need to develop and employ new technologies to secure our nation’s airports that were strongly supported by Honda in the U.S. House. One such provision provides for \$250 million to research, develop and evaluate new and existing airport security technologies over the next five years. Another such provision authorizes \$20 million for long-term research grants for aviation security improvements, secure networking, sharing threat information and advances in biometrics. Biometric technology, which is used to identify and authenticate an individual’s identity based on unique physiological data such as fingerprints and retinas, remains one of the most promising new ways to improve security at airports.

**“I am very thankful to Senator Joe Lieberman for fighting to make sure that our nation’s airports will be equipped with the best in new technology,”** continued Honda. **“Thanks in large part to his leadership, we proved that even in the most contentious of times,**

**developing sensible and effective technology policy to secure our nation's airways is something we can all agree upon."**

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