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Wednesday, June 11, 2008

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Fares to Hawaii may climb after two carriers shut down.
 Travelers to Hawaii will have fewer choices now that ATA Airlines and Aloha Airlines have shut down. Flights to Hawaii were a key part of ATA's business. Domestic carriers that continue to fly to the islands should see a boost in traffic, observers note. Apr 4, 2008

Four U.S. airlines are being investigated for their suspected failure to comply with federal regulations dealing with aircraft maintenance, the Federal Aviation Administration said Wednesday, although it stressed that the nation's air fleet was safe. The FAA declined to release the names of the four airlines, citing the ongoing investigation and privacy issues, but said fines might be levied. Two airlines failed to complete inspections of wire bundles, one didn't finish repetitive inspections, and another lacked a plan for compliance with an FAA directive, the agency said. The announcement came as FAA officials prepared to testify today about the agency's air safety efforts at a congressional hearing. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Rep. James L. Oberstar (D-Minn.) called the hearing, saying the FAA had a "cozy" relationship with the carriers it regulated. In a briefing Wednesday, the FAA detailed results from the first part of the agency's two-part audit of maintenance record-keeping and performance of the nation's 117 larger airlines. The second stage of its review will conclude June 30. During the first phase of the audit, aviation safety inspectors performed about 2,400 audits of FAA "airworthiness directives" from March 13 to 28 and found a compliance rate of about 99%. Apr 3, 2008

U.S. air travelers have endured longer lines, more delays and the loss of amenities such as meals and blankets. Now they are

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