

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

Statement of  
**Craig K. Hirai**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM,  
AND TECHNOLOGY**

March 24, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 414

In consideration of  
**S.C.R. 129/S.R. 53**  
**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL  
AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK.**

HHFDC **offers the following comments** on S.C.R. 129 and S.R. 53.

We defer to DBEDT on the overall merits of the development of a master plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park proposed in these resolutions. In general, HHFDC is ready and willing to work collaboratively with State, County, and Federal departments and agencies on mixed-use developments that include affordable housing as one of its components.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS  
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Statement of

**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND TECHNOLOGY**

Friday, March 24, 2017

2:30 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of

**SCR 129 / SR53**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL  
AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully offers **comments with concerns** regarding this resolution.

The vision to develop an aerospace and technology park in Hawaii to support aviation maintenance and training, the design and manufacture of aircraft systems, and both aviation and aerospace related research could build upon Hawaii's strategic mid-Pacific near-equatorial location, existing aviation infrastructure, and resident expertise in related fields, potentially generating new commercial and educational opportunities for our State.

However, formulation of a detailed strategic master plan to help guide the development and implementation of the proposed park will require both funding and dedicated staff support, as well as adequate time for completion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



Written Statement of  
**Robbie Melton**  
Executive Director & CEO  
High Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology**  
Friday, March 24, 2017  
2:30 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of  
**SCR 129 / SR 53**  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE  
AND TECHNOLOGY PARK.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports the intent** and offers **comments** on SCR 129 / SR53 that requests DBEDT to develop a master plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at promoting technology and innovation jobs. HTDC is currently conducting a feasibility study for the multipurpose processing facility in Hilo in partnership with University of Hawaii at Hilo and the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The results of the study will offer some insights that can contribute to the plan.

HTDC comments that HTDC's statute provides for developing tech parks and may be the more appropriate lead agency for the effort. HTDC comments that we are available to support economic development working group discussions, however, without additional staff or budget, we do not have the resources to lead the planning activities.

HTDC comments that with all tech parks, a working group of all stakeholders is required and would be the first step before DBEDT could develop a master plan. Stakeholders who would benefit from an aerospace tech park should be identified to come up with a vision for the activities. A study should be conducted by a third party to develop a business plan, identify the appropriate activities, and identify who would be the responsible entity for managing such a tech park.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Written Statement of:  
**Rodrigo Romo**  
Program Manager, PISCES.

Before the:  
**Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology**  
March 24<sup>th</sup> 2017  
14:30  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414  
In Support of  
**SCR129/SR53: Requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to  
Develop a Master Plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park**

To: Chair Sen. Glenn Wakai and Vice-Chair Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SCR129/SR53**.

The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems, PISCES, fully agrees to participate in the creation of the Master Plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park.

PISCES recognizes the impact that a properly planned Aerospace and Technology Park can have on East Hawaii's economic development and advances in education and career tracks.

For this reason, we support this resolution.

Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Romo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rodrigo Romo  
Program Manager  
PISCES

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology  
March 24, 2017 at 2:30 pm

by  
Donald O. Straney  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

**SCR 129 / SR 53 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for SCR 129 / SR 53. My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). I am testifying as a member of the Hawai'i Island community and I support the intent of this resolution to develop a master plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is positioned to offer aeronautical science education to a primarily in-state resident market. Pending administrative approval, the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science degree program will produce locally grown pilots to help address the looming worldwide pilot shortage. Training a pilot workforce in-state promotes the self-sufficiency of Hawai'i and increases its resiliency to shifting employment markets.

With its wide-open spaces, diverse environment and uncongested airspace, the Big Island of Hawai'i is an ideal staging ground for aerospace training and research. A Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park would take advantage of an economic region well-suited to student residency and visiting researchers. The astronomy industry is a working example of international engagement and participation on Hawai'i island.

I urge the Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology to approve this resolution for the future of our state and to ensure a bright future for our keiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 129 / SR 53. Aloha.