



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
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Statement of

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

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

9:45 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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 Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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 Ways and Means**  
Tuesday, April 4, 2017  
9:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

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 Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports the intent** and offers **comments** on SCR 129 / SR 53 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.

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
April 4, 2017 at 9:45 am  
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.