



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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Tuesday, February 28, 2017
11:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of

HB 1478

**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM
TECHNOLOGIES.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee.

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism **supports** this bill to appropriate funds to advocate, promote, and manage development, testing, and evaluation of unmanned aerial systems provided that it does not replace any of DBEDT's executive budget requests.

The State of Hawaii, in partnership with Alaska and Oregon, was selected by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to serve as one of seven national UAS test sites (the Pan Pacific UAS Test Range Complex, or PPUTRC). The goal is to enable the development, testing and certification of UAS technologies, as well as to help formulate operating standards and regulations that will help safely integrate these technologies into the national air space.

The civilian UAS applications to be studied at these test sites are truly diverse and far-reaching, ranging from environmental monitoring and wildlife management to emergency search and rescue, flood and pollution control, power line inspections, air quality monitoring, watershed management, and other applications with substantial civic and commercial benefits.

In developing these applications, multiple research, business, education, and professional training opportunities will also emerge, such as the development of miniaturized high performance remote sensing instruments, aerial tracking systems and related command and control software, training courses and certification programs for

UAS operators, and other innovative programs with revenue generation and job creation potential.

In addition, UAS test range operations in Hawaii will help reduce or eliminate shipping and other costs associated with demonstrating and evaluating new sensor technologies developed by Hawaii-based companies at U.S. mainland sites, facilitate cost-effective operations of both military and government contractors supporting local fire and police departments, and both strengthen and diversify statewide programs conducted by the U.S. Civil Air Patrol and Coast Guard, the U.S. and Hawaii National Guard, the U.S. and Hawaii Departments of Defense, and other federal and State agencies.

DBEDT urges the House Committee on Finance to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:59 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ted.ralston@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ted ralston	University of Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments: UAS or Drones are becoming significant element in current and future educational programs, workforce development, and local economy. We have got to get this right for those reasons and because Hawaii is one of the FAA UAS Test Range authorizations. HB1478 heads us in that direction.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:10 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mike.elliott@droneserviceshawaii.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Elliott	Drone Services Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments: My name is Mike Elliott. I am one of the owners of Drone Services Hawaii. our company has been working for nearly 2 1/2 years to provide drone products and services to Hawaii and the South Pacific. We have partnered with the University of Alaska in a Public/Private partnership for test site operations on the island of Lanai. We have advised on a number of projects for the University of Hawaii and have supplied critical equipment for research that is vital to the ecosystem locally as well as work that supports issues affecting the planet worldwide. We strongly support legislation to fund a process to integrate research efforts, streamline use by state and City/County agencies and provide a pathway for testing here in Hawaii. With these efforts, issues of safety, reliability will be greatly enhanced. Challenges in the new realm of Beyond Line of Site Flight, Multi-drone operations, Search and Rescue and so much more can be tackled right here in Hawaii. This state has the opportunity to become the "Kitty Hawk of the Pacific" when it comes to UAS technology. It is up to the state, private business in Hawaii and the University of Hawaii to seize this opportunity in this effort to utilize Unmanned Aerial Systems.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:51 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: worldcat30@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1478 on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM

HB1478

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 28, 2017 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
george purdy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This gives the future of this industry to grow here in Hawaii for our youth, community and industry.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
February 28, 2017 at 11:00am
by
Donald O. Straney
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

**HB 1478 - RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR UNMANNED AERIAL
SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for HB 1478. 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 HB 1478 to appropriate funds to advocate, promote, and manage development, testing, and evaluation of unmanned aerial systems (UAS), or drones, in Hawai'i.

Tapping into this emerging technology will ensure Hawai'i remains competitive in a developing marketplace. Hawai'i's students who seek STEM opportunities in a UAS field need look no further. The University of Hawai'i has already begun to offer UAS education and training to students. The State of Hawai'i is only just beginning to realize the value and potential of UAS in public, private and recreational markets. A structured, concerted effort to frame the state's intent to support UAS development is necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 1478. Aloha.