



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, February 26, 2021
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 862, HD1
RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT.

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) provides the following comments on HB 862, HD1, which abolishes the Office of Aerospace Development, Aerospace Advisory Committee, and the Hawaii Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Site Advisory Board. Additionally, it makes conforming amendments associated with the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems.

The Office of Aerospace Development (OAD)'s mission is to facilitate dialogue and coordination among the state's government, private and academic sectors, and between state-based organizations and overseas institutions, both public and private, to promote the development and diversification of Hawaii's aerospace industry.

Since 2018, OAD has focused on prioritizing its initiatives to support the diversification of Hawaii's aerospace economy through drones, robotics, aviation education, and local conferences. Heading into the 2020 calendar year, the Office, in addition to supporting many small and medium-scale projects, had quite a momentum with several large-scale projects: HAPS Mobile, UPS proof of concept, international

robotics competition, secondary aviation academy, and expanding local aerospace conferences. Additionally, as a member of the Policy Committee in the Aerospace States Association, OAD makes sure that Hawaii contributes to the national aerospace policy recommendations.

As the COVID-19 pandemic hit, most of the aerospace projects were put on hold, and DBEDT took the opportunity to broaden the role of the Aerospace Development Coordinator to work on more broader economic development initiatives which included contributing to the DBEDT 2.0 structure, analyses and allocation process, and the department's remote work pilot program in collaboration with the State of Hawaii Workforce Development Council.

Abolishing OAD means ending the support for ongoing aerospace programs and ending the discussions and initiatives in progress that contributes to the overall diversification of Hawaii's economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

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Statement of
Rodrigo Romo
Program Director

LATE

Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES)
Before the
Committee on Finance
Friday, February 26th, 2021 @ 11:00, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB862-HD1 RELATING TO STATE GOVERNMENT

Dear Chari Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee:

I am writing to you appreciate the intent of this Bill and defer comments to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The Aerospace Industry is a rapid growing industry that could help the State on its path towards Economic Recovery. Hawaii has various advantages both geographical as well as geological that make it an ideal location for various aerospace related activities. This Bill retains the Pacific International Space for Exploration Systems and allows it to continue its work related to Aerospace development. In order for PISCES to continue with its operations, funding will be required for the agency.

We appreciate the support this committee has shown to the PISCES program in the past and thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Rodrigo Romo
Program Director
PISCES
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Hilo, HI 96720

HB-862-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:09:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/26/2021 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support