



Written Statement of  
**Len Higashi**  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**Senate Committee On Ways and Means**  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**SB1482**  
**RELATING TO AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports** SB1482 that establishes the Aerospace Development Office within the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation and appropriates funds.

HTDC supports initiatives that promote economic diversification through technology. HTDC agrees with the premise of the bill that the state currently lacks a focal point within state government to facilitate dialogue and coordination among Hawaii's public, private, and academic sectors, and between state-based entities and public and private overseas organizations to promote the growth and diversification of Hawaii's aerospace industry. HTDC currently supports initiatives that intersect with aerospace but lacks the resources to play a larger role. HTDC is supportive of taking on additional responsibility provided it is resourced with staff and appropriation. HTDC looks forward to working with all stakeholders in moving Hawai'i forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



February 14, 2023

**IN SUPPORT OF SB-1482**

TO: The Honorable Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair  
Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

FR: Adelaida Velasco Severson, PhD  
President

SUBJECT: **SB-1482 - RELATING TO AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT – To Establish the Aerospace Development Office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
1:02pm in CR229 (appearing via videoconference)

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

My name is Adelaida Velasco Severson and I am President and CEO of Bushtex, Inc., an international satellite communications company based in Gilbert, AZ. I am in full support of SB-1482 to establish the Aerospace Development Office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.

You might be wondering why I am concerned about this bill as it relates to Hawaii. I was born and raised in Hawaii, graduated from Pearl City High School and was one of those kids who went away to college to pursue “greener pastures” as many do. After attending the University of Southern California to study Broadcast Journalism and International Relations, and working in the broadcast field, my path took me into the satellite communications industry which I have been doing for the past 30 years. My family in Hawaii as well as my work in this field bring me home almost monthly and I am seeing this office as a necessity more and more.

My support in opening this office is three-fold:

1. **STATE SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL, COMMERCIAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION PURPOSES:**  
Hawaii is in a strategic footprint in the Pacific Ocean. This alone is key to supporting mission critical events to serve our national interests of maritime and land needs alike. The same goes for commercial concerns as Hawaii often serves as a connecting hub for telecommunications between the US and the Asian and Australian continents, as well as



SB-1482  
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for our friends in the Oceanic Archipelago. And finally, the research capabilities to support higher education around the globe are endless and priceless.

2. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE STATE OF HAWAII:** Through partnerships with satellite owners and operators, Hawaii can be a hotbed of activity should it choose. Just by our location, Hawaii is poised to support great collaboration in the aerospace industry on an international level. The presence of a central office in Hawaii to support and serve as a clearing house of such activity would be key to ensuring what is best for Hawaii's steady, strategic and intentional growth in this area.
  
3. **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:** There is already great interest from the government and commercial entities to strengthen all things space and aerospace on a national and international level. We need to prepare our keiki to be aligned with these objectives. I believe Hawaii can be at the cutting edge of fostering great minds to be the next generation of leaders in this industry. If this office can help to create and enforce curriculum relating to aerospace at the most granular level, we can be at the forefront of enhancing not only awareness to the industry, but the workforce development needed to support it.

It is for these reasons that I, Adelaida Velasco Severson and on behalf of my company Bushtex, Inc., support SB-1482. Hawaii is my home and I would like to see us take it to infinity and beyond!

Genuinely,

*Adelaida V. Severson*

Adelaida Velasco Severson, PhD  
President

**LATE**

February 27, 2023

**IN SUPPORT OF SB-1482**

TO: Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair - Ways and Means Committee

Keith Agaran, Vice Chair - Ways and Means Committee

FR: Adelaida Velasco Severson, PhD  
President

SUBJECT: **SB-1482 - RELATING TO AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT – To Establish the Aerospace Development Office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
10:00am in CR211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Adelaida Velasco Severson and I am President and CEO of Bushtex, Inc., an international satellite communications company based in Gilbert, AZ. I am in full support of SB-1482 to establish the Aerospace Development Office within the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation.

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*Adelaida V. Severson*

Adelaida Velasco Severson, PhD  
President

**SB-1482**

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 5:02:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2023 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

This isn't an industry we want or need in Hawai'i. It will do nothing for the working people of Hawai'i, will cause harm to our environment and natural resources, and it has the potential to put Hawai'i and its people at increased risk of harm by continuing the military-industrial build-up of these islands. This places a target on our backs. We all remember the false missile alert. Next time, it could be real, and building up the aerospace industry here increases that risk. Please defer this bill, and look for ways to create sustainable industries that are not tied to the military-industrial complex.

February 28, 2023

**Rodrigo Romo**  
**1445 Waianuenu Ave**  
**Hilo, HI 96720**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
TUESDAY FEB 28, 2023, 10:02  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB-1482 RELATING TO AEROSPACE.**

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee:

I am writing in support of Bill SB-1482 which establishes the Aerospace Development Office in Hawai'i within the Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC).

Given its unique geographical advantage, Hawai'i has strong potential for becoming a main player in the development of the Aerospace and Aeronautics industry. Creating an Aerospace Development office, solely dedicated to promoting the Aerospace Industry by attracting companies to establish operations in Hawai'i can be of great benefit to the state's economic recovery post COVID. It will help diversify our industrial portfolio so we're not so dependent on tourism.

Potential industries that could benefit from Hawai'i include small satellite manufacturing, small vehicle launch operations, Unmanned Aerial Systems, Space Tourism. Having an aerospace industry cluster will also benefit our universities and community colleges creating career pathways for our students who currently find limited employment opportunities in this industry in the State.

However, for this office to succeed, it will require full support from the State at the Legislative, Executive and County levels to help attract companies to the state. It is also important to point out that funds for this office should not be taken away from funds used for the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) which is now within UH Hilo and continues to produce ground breaking research in planetary exploration.

Finally, I would suggest that the term "Aeronautics" be added to the name of this new office (Aerospace and Aeronautics Development Office – AADO) in order to better cover areas that are not strictly related to aerospace.

Your affirmative consideration of these bills will be deeply appreciated.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Romo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "Romo" following.