February 9, 2009

Hawaii State legislature State Capital Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Support Testimony on S.B. NO. 222

RELATING TO AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT - SPACEPORT LICENSE

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Community Affairs Senator Will Espero, Chair Senator Robert Bunda, Vice Chair

Committee on tourism Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair (O

Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 1:00 p.m., Conference Room 229

Enterprise Honolulu, the Oahu Economic Development Board strongly <u>supports SB</u> 222, providing funding to obtain an FAA License for space port operations in Hawaii.

With congress and NASA opening up the first 100 miles of space for commercialization, Hawaii can strengthen its position in this growth market through support and funding to secure space port license authorization for Honolulu International Airport, Kalaeloa Airport, and Kona Airport, plus support for the Pisces and UH space initiatives.

Why now? NASA rolled out America's new vision for space exploration in 2006, and Hawaii has many assets/resources/capabilities/advantages that can positively respond. Hawaii's strategic mid-Pacific location and long-standing ties with Asia-Pacific nations, makes the islands an ideal site to support collaborative international science, education and economic development initiatives (e.g., conferences/symposia, research, astronaut training, advanced optics and robotics testing and evaluation)

Getting space port authorization for sub orbital flights in Hawaii is the first step towards a future linking Hawaii to any part of the world within an hour in the not too distant future. Failure to act on this now could mean Hawaii will not be on the flight map at all. The timing is right for these activities. Enterprise Honolulu strongly supports SB 222.

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