



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

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Statement of

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

and the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY**

Tuesday, March 15, 2016

1:15 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

in consideration of

HB 2263, HD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs Nishihara and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Espero and Slom, and Members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent to conduct an economic assessment study on the development and viability of a small satellite processing and launch facility on the island of Hawaii.

Recent advances in the miniaturization of satellite components, standardization of many satellite parts, and related factors have made the building, launch, and operation of small satellites ("smallsats") technologically feasible and increasingly economical, which in turn is fueling a broad range of innovative applications utilizing smallsats related to space science, in-orbit technology testing and demonstration, and earth observation.

As noted in this legislation, Hawaii's unique mid-Pacific, near-equatorial location provides a cost-effective site from which to launch payloads into orbit. The proposed economic assessment study would provide an analysis of the opportunities this industry holds for Hawaii, as well as a roadmap for leveraging Hawaii's competitive advantages in commercial space launch.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Piilani Kaawaloa
Aha Moku Advisory Committee – Moku O Keawe (Hawaii)

Before the House Committees on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

Tuesday, March 15, 2016
1:15 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2263 HD 1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

House Bill 2263 HD 1 appropriates funds for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to conduct an economic assessment study on the development and economic viability of a small satellite launch and processing facility on the Island of Hawaii.

The Aha Moku respectfully OPPOSES this measure.

While the resolution states that the development of a small satellite launch and processing facility on Hawaii Island may have economic potential for Hawaii Island and for the State of Hawaii, it does not state specifically where plans for this launching facility may be. In the twenty years, there have been attempts and plans to establish satellite and launching facilities in the Moku of Ka'u where it was deemed to be the best place for such a facility. The area identified in Ka'u is the site of the most sacred wahi pana. It is the site where the first Tahitians landed in Hawaii prior to the 9th century. It is as sacred to Hawaiians as Mauna Kea.

And, if plans do not include Ka'u, then no site has been identified and no comments may be given.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and we urge this committee not to adopt this measure until more information is known.



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

March 14, 2016

Robert M. Kelso
Executive Director, PISCES
99 Aupuni St.
Suite 212-213
Hilo, HI 96720

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF:

HB2263– RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF A SMALL SATELLITE
LAUNCH AND PROCESSING FACILITY FOR HAWAII

Dear Members of the 28th Hawaii State Legislature,

As Executive Director for PISCES, I am writing in support of the passage of HB2263, which provides operating expenses to conduct an economic assessment of the establishment of a small satellite launch and processing facility on the island of Hawaii.

Over the last few years, there has been an increase in the production and market for small satellites supporting emerging companies and low-earth-orbit (LEO) market niches.

BlackSky, OneWeb, and UrtheCast join a number of other companies actively developing constellations of smallsats, weighing from a few hundred kilograms down to a few kilograms. Those satellites are intended for applications ranging from communications to imagery to GPS radio occultation, a technique to sample the atmosphere that can provide data for meteorology.

In the past, dedicated small satellite launch vehicles were either too expensive, rarely flew or both. Today, there is an emerging fleet of commercial, dedicated smallsat launchers.



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

Several commercial/private companies developing smallsat launchers have begun to approach Hawaii about possible launch sites on east Hawaii for due-east equatorial launches of small satellites.

Hawaii, given its close proximity to the equator, has a geographic advantage over many other traditional launch sites.

This bill will provide the monies for the State of Hawaii to independently assess the economic potential of this market for the State, and send a message from the State of Hawaii that the state is interested in such high-technology, workforce-development initiatives.

The study would:

- Assess the market and interest for establishing a customer base in Hawaii
- Assess challenges/ barriers to entry
- Assess organizational models for implementation

Your affirmative consideration of this bill will be deeply appreciated.

Mahalo,

Robert M. Kelso

Executive Director, PISCES