

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

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Statement of

LUIS P. SALAVERIA Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

before the

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND TECHNOLOGY

Friday, March 24, 2017 2:30 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of

#### SCR 129 / SR53

#### **REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,** AND TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL **AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully offers comments with concerns regarding this resolution.

The vision to develop an aerospace and technology park in Hawaii to support aviation maintenance and training, the design and manufacture of aircraft systems, and both aviation and aerospace related research could build upon Hawaii's strategic mid-Pacific near-equatorial location, existing aviation infrastructure, and resident expertise in related fields, potentially generating new commercial and educational opportunities for our State.

However, formulation of a detailed strategic master plan to help guide the development and implementation of the proposed park will require both funding and dedicated staff support. as well as adequate time for completion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



#### Written Statement of: Rodrigo Romo Program Manager, PISCES.

#### Before the: Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology March 24<sup>th</sup> 2017 14:30 State Capitol, Conference Room 414 In Support of SCR129/SR53: Requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism to Develop a Master Plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park

To: Chair Sen. Glenn Wakai and Vice-Chair Sen. Brian T. Taniguchi

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SCR129/SR53.

The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems, PISCES, fully agrees to participate in the creation of the Master Plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park.

PISCES recognizes the impact that a properly planned Aerospace and Technology Park can have on East Hawaii's economic development and advances in education and career tracks.

For this reason, we support this resolution.

Mahalo.

Vomo

Rodrigo Romo Program Manager PISCES

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То:	ETT Testimony		
Cc:	hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com		
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## <u>SR53</u>

Submitted on: 3/22/2017 Testimony for ETT on Mar 24, 2017 14:30PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	<b>Testifier Position</b>	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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#### Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology March 24, 2017 at 2:30 pm by Donald O. Straney Chancellor, University of Hawai`i at Hilo

# SCR 129 / SR 53 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for SCR 129 / SR 53. 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 this resolution to develop a master plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is positioned to offer aeronautical science education to a primarily in-state resident market. Pending administrative approval, the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science degree program will produce locally grown pilots to help address the looming worldwide pilot shortage. Training a pilot workforce in-state promotes the self-sufficiency of Hawai'i and increases its resiliency to shifting employment markets.

With its wide-open spaces, diverse environment and uncongested airspace, the Big Island of Hawai'i is an ideal staging ground for aerospace training and research. A Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park would take advantage of an economic region well-suited to student residency and visiting researchers. The astronomy industry is a working example of international engagement and participation on Hawai'i island.

I urge the Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology to approve this resolution for the future of our state and to ensure a bright future for our keiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 129 / SR 53. Aloha.