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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the aerospace and  
2 aeronautics fields have played a pivotal role in expanding and  
3 diversifying the national economy by forging new inroads to  
4 scientific discovery, advancing national engineering and  
5 manufacturing expertise, pioneering innovations in  
6 communications and computer technologies, enhancing surveillance  
7 of our home planet, and enabling a better understanding of  
8 weather systems and climate change. The aerospace and  
9 aeronautics industries hold especially great potential to enable  
10 future development and innovation in science and technology in  
11 Hawaii. Hawaii's strategic near-equatorial location,  
12 substantial telemetry, accessible space surveillance, Moon- and  
13 Mars-like terrain, resident expertise in a broad range of  
14 aerospace- and aeronautic-related technologies, and long-  
15 standing ties with space-faring nations throughout the Asia-  
16 Pacific region are strategic assets and capabilities. These can  
17 be leveraged to help realize humankind's full potential in space



1 and to establish the State as a major contributor to, and  
2 beneficiary of, global space enterprise. Historically, Hawaii  
3 has played a seminal role in developing the nation's space  
4 program through astronaut training and the development of world-  
5 class observatories. Today, Hawaii continues to support  
6 national space efforts through a wide range of aerospace-related  
7 activities on all major islands, including the Mauna Kea science  
8 reserve on the island of Hawaii, the Air Force Maui optical and  
9 supercomputing observatory on the island of Maui, the university  
10 of Hawaii's institute for astronomy and Hawaii institute for  
11 geophysics and planetology on the island of Oahu, and the  
12 Pacific missile range facility on the island of Kauai.

13       The legislature further finds that establishing the Hawaii  
14 aerospace and aeronautics development program will provide a  
15 focal point within the state government to facilitate dialogue  
16 and coordination among Hawaii's public, private, and academic  
17 sectors, and between state-based entities and public and private  
18 overseas organizations, and to promote the growth and  
19 diversification of Hawaii's aerospace and aeronautics  
20 industries. By establishing the aerospace and aeronautics  
21 development program, the State can more efficiently direct its



1 resources to address the needs of the aerospace and aeronautics  
2 fields.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the  
4 aerospace and aeronautics development program within the  
5 department of business, economic development, and tourism.

6 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
7 adding a new chapter to title 13 to be appropriately designated  
8 and to read as follows:

9 "CHAPTER

10 AEROSPACE AND AERONAUTICS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

11 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

12 "Director" means the director of the aerospace and  
13 aeronautics development program.

14 "Program" means the aerospace and aeronautics development  
15 program.

16 § -2 Aerospace and aeronautics development program;

17 establishment. (a) There is established an aerospace and  
18 aeronautics development program within the department of  
19 business, economic development, and tourism for administrative  
20 purposes only.



1 (b) The director shall have experience, knowledge, and  
2 expertise in space-related activities and development. The  
3 director shall be nominated and appointed by the governor  
4 without regard to chapter 76.

5 (c) The director shall hire staff as necessary to carry  
6 out the purposes of this chapter.

7 (d) The director and employees of the program shall be  
8 included in any benefit program generally applicable to the  
9 officers and employees of the State.

10 § -3 Director; powers and duties. In addition to any  
11 other powers and duties provided in this chapter, the director  
12 shall:

13 (1) Oversee, supervise, and direct the planning,  
14 evaluation, and coordination of space-related  
15 activities and identify and promote opportunities for  
16 expanding and diversifying aerospace-related  
17 industries in the State, including:

- 18 (A) Applied optics;
- 19 (B) Astronomy and astrophysics;
- 20 (C) Aviation;
- 21 (D) Dual-use technology;



- 1           (E) Environmental monitoring;
- 2           (F) Meteorology;
- 3           (G) Remote sensing; and
- 4           (H) Robotics and unmanned aerial vehicles, including
- 5                 drones, satellite communications, and commercial
- 6                 space launch;
- 7       (2) Initiate discussions for private and international
- 8           involvement in space-related activities in the State;
- 9       (3) Serve as a catalyst in forging partnerships between
- 10           the university of Hawaii and businesses in the State
- 11           to:
- 12           (A) Improve the relevance and quality of university
- 13                 training to support the growth and
- 14                 diversification of the State's aerospace
- 15                 industry;
- 16           (B) Identify entrepreneurial opportunities to
- 17                 commercialize basic research; and
- 18           (C) Facilitate the transfer of technology from the
- 19                 university of Hawaii to the private sector to
- 20                 expedite commercialization;



- 1           (4) Assist the university of Hawaii, local companies,  
2           research institutions, and other stakeholders in  
3           establishing partnerships with corporate, government,  
4           and university entities overseas that can promote and  
5           enhance the State's aerospace industry;
- 6           (5) Leverage aerospace and related technological  
7           capabilities in the State's academic, public, and  
8           private sectors to enhance the State's ability to  
9           procure federal and private research and development  
10          grants, and to increase the State's competitiveness in  
11          national and global aerospace markets;
- 12          (6) Promote innovative education and workforce development  
13          programs that will enhance public awareness of the  
14          State's aerospace potential and enable residents to  
15          pursue employment in the State's aerospace industry;
- 16          (7) Monitor national and global trends in the aerospace  
17          industry and recommend programs and policies to  
18          support aerospace industry development statewide;
- 19          (8) Serve as a central point of contact to respond to  
20          inquiries concerning the State's aerospace-related  
21          interests and activities;



- 1           (9) Review the effectiveness of present publications,  
2           pamphlets, and other sources of information produced  
3           and distributed by the State about its space-related  
4           activities;
- 5           (10) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on the  
6           State's space-related activities, including the  
7           activities of the university of Hawaii and federal  
8           agencies located in the State;
- 9           (11) Target existing businesses that can provide important  
10          products or services to the space industry to support  
11          the expansion of space-related businesses in the  
12          State;
- 13          (12) Increase and maintain contact with the National  
14          Aeronautics and Space Administration and other federal  
15          agencies and facilities;
- 16          (13) Institute procedures by which citizens can offer input  
17          on proposed space facilities development at the  
18          earliest possible point in the development process;
- 19          (14) Adopt, amend, and repeal rules, pursuant to  
20          chapter 91, as necessary to carry out this chapter;



1 (15) Contract for services as necessary for the purposes of  
2 this chapter; and

3 (16) Do all other things necessary to carry out the  
4 purposes of this chapter.

5 § -4 **Space vehicles; prohibitions.** The program shall  
6 not authorize or facilitate the launching into space from the  
7 State's land or ocean territory any vehicle that carries weapons  
8 of destruction or nuclear waste materials, or that uses  
9 radioactive materials as a power source."

10 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
11 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
13 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
14 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
15 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by

16 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes  
17 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
18 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
19 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
20 ceiling are that:





1 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
2 serve the public interest; and

3 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
4 addressed by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for  
8 the establishment of the aerospace and aeronautics development  
9 program within the department of business, economic development,  
10 and tourism.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
12 business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes of  
13 this Act.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

15

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2024



# H.B. NO. 1959

**Report Title:**

DBEDT; Aerospace and Aeronautics Development Program;  
Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes the Aerospace and Aeronautics Development Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Makes an appropriation.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

