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Written Statement of
Matthew Kobayashi
Projects Development Manager
Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation
before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
Thursday, January 30, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
In consideration of
SB581
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports SB581 establishing an Aerospace and Aeronautics Development Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

The aerospace industry plays a key role in the State's economic diversification by providing alternative avenues for growth, high-paying jobs and revenue generation beyond tourism. By investing in a focused aerospace program, the State can take advantage of its geographic positioning and geological features which make Hawai'i uniquely qualified to support emerging industries such as: space surveillance, stratospheric monitoring, environmentally responsible satellite launch, and clean electric powered transportation of people and goods within our island chain. HTDC is currently engaged in discussions with providers of the aforementioned technologies that will benefit greatly by this Bill.

Passing this Bill to establish the Aerospace and Aeronautics Program within DBEDT will provide a force and fund multiplier in the growth of the aerospace industry within the State by creating a much-needed point of responsibility to support and bring together the substantial assets operating in Hawai'i with a unified vision and goal.

HTDC supports this request provided it does not supplant the Governor's priorities in the Administrative budget. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



Testimony supporting S.B. 581

This testimony is being submitted in strong support of S.B. 581, which outlines the State of Hawaii's strategic advantages and visionary leadership in space-related enterprise, as well as the pioneering role Hawaii can continue to play in helping advance humankind's understanding and exploration of the Cosmos by reestablishing an Aerospace and Aeronautics program at the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT).

Humanity is now embarking on a new and truly inspiring era of space enterprise. Public and private research institutions worldwide are pursuing increasingly innovative approaches to advance space exploration and development. Building upon these innovations, space-faring nations are currently working to both expand and diversify their cosmic ventures. Non space-faring nations will also benefit from the pioneering technologies emerging through this space revolution, which could provide creative and diverse pathways that ultimately would engage all of humanity on the frontiers of space.

There are, however, gaps in the global collaborative framework that today are preventing countries newly embarking on space enterprise from fully realizing their space potentials. There also are expanding needs to promote international collaboration on space safety, the challenges of space debris and other cosmic hazards, and ultimately the long-term sustainability of space enterprise. These issues will ultimately impact all nations, regardless of their current space-faring interests or capabilities. Enhanced international collaboration among governments, as well as private and public space entities, will also be essential to enable space policies and regulations that could effectively address these challenges, as well as to help reduce political, economic, and military conflicts in space.

Given its strategic mid-Pacific location, resident expertise in science and technology, and ongoing alliances with professional research and development institutions worldwide, Hawaii is exceptionally well situated to serve as an innovative catalyst for launching both public-private and international partnerships that can help advance space enterprise for all humankind. The pioneering vision and goals set forth in S.B. 581 provide an outstanding overview of the benefits space enterprise can bring to Hawaii, as well as a strategy that will both promote and advance our state's global leadership role on the frontiers of space.

As such, I strongly recommend that the Hawaii State Legislature should pass this legislation, and would be happy to address any questions related to this recommendation.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Crisafulli', is written over a circular stamp that is partially visible.

Jim Crisafulli, President
The Alliance for Collaboration in the Exploration of Space
(ACES Worldwide)

SB-581

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:24:13 PM

Testimony for EDT on 1/30/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodrigo Romo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Chairs and members of the Committees:

I want to write in strong support for this Bill. Hawaii is uniquely positioned geographically to be an important hub in the growing aerospace industry. Its proximity to the equator, high qualified universities, strong work force and clean skies above it make it one of the most ideal locations in the world to develop an industry cluster that will help the state create a more diversified economy. We all saw what happened when Covid forced our tourism industry to shut down, we cannot continue to rely on tourism as a sustainable economic driver for the state. Aerospace will not replace tourism, but a well planned and properly supported Aerospace development stage agency working together with our universities can generate a significant amount of revenue to the state and high paying jobs for residents and future generations.

I hope you support this measure and provide the adequate backing to make it succeed.

Mahalo nui,

SB-581

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:47:41 PM

Testimony for EDT on 1/30/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Tourism,

I stand in strong opposition to this bill.

While in Section 1. of this bill claims that aerospace and aeronautics have played a role in diversifying the “national economy by forging new inroads to scientific discovery, advancing national engineering and

manufacturing expertise, pioneering innovations in communications and computer technologies, enhancing surveillance of our home planet, and enabling a better understanding of weather systems and climate change,” all of this should be done focusing on our real world problems in our islands and around the world. The financial support should not be going to adventures in space, but rather to focusing on what’s around us now. We should be making scientific discoveries and advancing engineering and manufacturing expertise, as well as pioneering innovations in technology in environmental sciences and improving the health of our planet. These funds should be going to innovative agricultural practices that help to mitigate the effects of global warming, sea-level rise, and diminishing resources, such as clean water and air.

This bill also claims that we can “realize humankind’s full potential in space,” while failing to realize that we should be realizing humankind’s full potential on our current planet! There is no reason to explore space if we can’t sustain our own lives on this planet. “Humankind” has been on this planet for a very long time, and it wasn’t until recently that we’ve begun to live unbalanced with our environment. Funds should not be going to explore/learn about space, but to learning our environment.

We have much more pressing needs for these funds, please do not decide to waste them on space exploration. Let’s explore our own planet and make this a better place to live for everyone, before wasting resources on space.

Mahalo for your consideration.

