

JAN 17 2025

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, the global space enterprise. Historically,
3 Hawaii has played a seminal role in developing the nation's
4 space program through astronaut training and the development of
5 world-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 of
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.



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

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

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

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

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

(A) Applied optics;

(B) Astronomy and astrophysics;

(C) Aviation;

(D) Dual-use technology;



(E) Environmental monitoring;

(F) Meteorology;

(G) Remote sensing; and

(H) Robotics and unmanned aerial vehicles, including
drones, satellite communications, and commercial
space launch;

(2) Initiate discussions for private and international
involvement in space-related activities in the State;

(3) Serve as a catalyst in forging partnerships between
the university of Hawaii and businesses in the State
to:

(A) Improve the relevance and quality of university
training to support the growth and
diversification of the State's aerospace
industry;

(B) Identify entrepreneurial opportunities to
commercialize basic research; and

(C) Facilitate the transfer of technology from the
university of Hawaii to the private sector to
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;



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

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

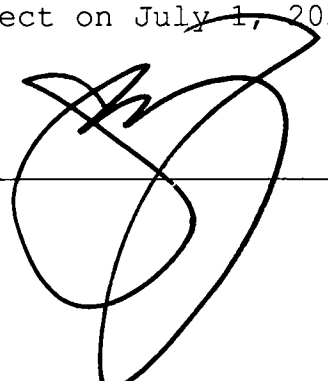
§ -4 Space vehicles; prohibitions. The program shall
not authorize or facilitate the launching into space from the
State's land or ocean territory any vehicle that carries weapons
of destruction or nuclear waste materials, or that uses
radioactive materials as a power source."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
year 2026-2027 for the establishment of the aerospace and
aeronautics development program within the department of
business, economic development, and tourism.

The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
of business, economic development for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

INTRODUCED BY: _____

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S.B. NO. 581

Report Title:

DBEDT; Aerospace and Aeronautics Development Program;
Appropriations

Description:

Establishes the Aerospace and Aeronautics Development Program within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. Appropriates funds.

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