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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  
15 long-standing ties with space-faring nations throughout the  
16 Asia-Pacific region are strategic assets and capabilities.  
17 These can be leveraged to help realize humankind's full



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

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



1 development program, the State can more efficiently direct its  
2 resources to address the needs of the aerospace and aeronautics  
3 fields.

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

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

10 **"CHAPTER**

11 **AEROSPACE AND AERONAUTICS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

12 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

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

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

17 **§ -2 Aerospace and aeronautics development program;**  
18 **establishment.** (a) There is established an aerospace and  
19 aeronautics development program within the department of  
20 business, economic development, and tourism for administrative  
21 purposes only.



(b) The program shall be headed by a director who 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;



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

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
19 of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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**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. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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