



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology
March 27, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.

By

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Chancellor

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

GM 672 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHRISTIAN WONG, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i **supports** GM 672 – Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The Board Of Directors Of The Pacific International Space Center For Exploration Systems, Gubernatorial Nominee, Christian Wong, For A Term To Expire 06-30-2029.

Mr. Wong is the founder and Executive Director of the Hawai'i Space and Technology Museum (HSTM). HSTM is a Hilo-based non-profit organization, established in 2015, that promotes STEM literacy and provides impactful STEM education experiences throughout Hawai'i Island. Mr. Wong's offerings through HSTM include: Science camps, after-school programs, tutoring, cultural programs, special events, robotics education, organizing science fairs with the Hawai'i District Science and Engineering Fair (HSTM affiliate), workforce development, research and development initiatives, and exhibits.

Mr. Wong actively works to bring in funding and hands-on experience for local kids. He is the PI on the "Hiapo" and "Hiapo 2.0" cubesat missions that will put into orbit a student-designed and built cubesat studying solar wind and its effects on climate change. Mr. Wong is also collaborating with the USDA to adapt off the shelf robots for agricultural tasks and doing genetic sequencing of endangered Hawaiian species in conjunction with Iolani School, Kealakehe HS, and the San Diego Zoo.

Mr. Wong, HSTM and PISCES have a long history of collaboration. HSTM has supported a number of PISCES' STARS summer programs (STEM program for high school girls) and the Women is Space Exploration (WiSE) talk series. PISCES also regularly participates in HSTM's Lava Tubes Rocketry events. Currently PISCES is working with Mr. Wong on a NASA TEAMS grant that funds the formation of a NASA Education Hub at HSTM and one at the University of Guam.

Mr. Wong is an invaluable contributor to student STEM education and community engagement in Hawai'i. His presence on the board will strengthen PISCES'

effectiveness at building an education and workforce pipeline from elementary school through college and into the workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM 672.

Chair Elefante, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

I support GM 672 – Submitting For Consideration And Confirmation To The Board Of Directors Of The Pacific International Space Center For Exploration Systems, Gubernatorial Nominee, Christian Wong, For A Term To Expire 06-30-2029.

Mr. Wong actively provides STEM workshops, programs and events for the youth of Hawaii. Mr. Wong founded the Hawaii Space and Technology Museum (HSTM) in 2015 as its Executive Director he has offered tutoring, after-school workshops, cultural programs, special events, robotics education, and much more to the local community.

Christian Wong has brought real-world aerospace projects to students in Hawaii. He is the Principle Investigator on two cubesat missions, Hiapo and Hiapo 2.0, that enable Hawaii students to design, build and launch cubesats to low-Earth orbit. HSTM has supported a number of PISCES' summer programs and the Women in Space Exploration (WiSE) talk series. PISCES also collaborates with Mr. Wong in HSTM's Lava Tubes Rocketry events and is currently working with Mr. Wong on a NASA TEAMS grant that funds the formation of a NASA Education Hub at HSTM and the University of Guam.

Christian Wong's contributions to STEM education, student success and community outreach will make him an important voice on the PISCES board. For these reasons, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of GM672. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of GM672.

Mahalo,
Christian Andersen
PISCES Director of Research
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