



UNIVERSITY
OF HAWAII
HILO

LATE TESTIMONY

January 29 2008

Testimony in support of HB 2939
Relating to Aerospace Development
Submitted by: Judith Fox-Goldstein,
Administrative Director, University of Hawai'i at Hilo Conference Center

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the House Economic
Development & Business Concerns Committee,

I serve as Administrative Director for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo Conference Center,
and I would like to voice my strong and unqualified support for HB 2939.

HB 2939 advocates for the support and continuation of the Pacific International Space
Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) and, based on the accomplishments of last
year, I strongly support this position. In fact, I can not think of an area that deserves more
support because we are investing in the *future* of Hawai'i, in the *future* of our students and
in the *future* of our economy.

Focusing our efforts on potential careers in science, technology and space will offer our
students a unique opportunity to remain in the islands while being employed in cutting
edge technological positions. We have an obligation to our youth, and to ourselves, to
consistently support activities in the sciences that will decrease our BRAIN DRAIN. We are
losing valuable resources, in terms of Hawaii's young minds, because there is a scarcity of
professional positions and careers in the sciences in Hawaii. PISCES offers a potential
answer and PISCES also contributes to Hawaii's reputation as a good place to conduct
business..... the business of science.

Hawai'i has long been known as the capital of 'sun and surf'. The time is **NOW** that we
expand our reputation as a first class destination where technology, research and the
'business of science' are also flourishing. The time is **NOW**, that we back our dreams and
aspirations with appropriate funding.

Hawai'i is perfectly positioned to capture the science and technology meetings market.
With our strategic location and environmental assets, we should be a leading competitor in
the events and meetings market. Again, PISCES can, and will, help us achieve this

Conference Center

200 W. KAWILI STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720-4091
PHONE: (808) 974-7555
FAX: (808) 974-7684

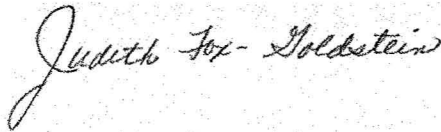
positive notoriety as we launch ourselves into a business and scientific destination and a 'place of excellence'.

We have an opportunity to take the lead in the growing industry of technology and education. We have an opportunity here to develop strong ties and positive linkages with NASA. How can we possibly consider anything less than full support!

In light of the substantial scientific, educational and economic benefits of PISCES, it behooves us to fully support H.B. # 2939. The question we should all be asking is... "What else can we do to ensure this program is sustained and thrives?"

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of H.B. #2939.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Fox-Goldstein". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Judith Fox-Goldstein, Administrative Director
University of Hawaii at Hilo Conference Center

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200 W. KAWILI STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720-4091
PHONE: (808) 974-7555
FAX: (808) 974-7684



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28 January 2008

Dear Friend:

I am writing to you in support of SB2891 and HB2939 which extends current state funding for the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES). PISCES shows promise of playing a major role in the expansion of UH Hilo's ability to provide high quality education to the citizens of our state. In all fairness, I must alert you to the fact that I am Deputy Director of PISCES and admittedly have a vested interest in its continued success. However, I am writing you as Chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at UH Hilo. In addition, as a former elected member of the Hawai'i State Board of Education I am well acquainted with the importance of providing our youngsters with the opportunity to develop their strengths so that they can find their future here in Hawai'i, rather than being forced to seek employment elsewhere. PISCES helps us to do that.

PISCES combines exciting, culturally sensitive research and development with an elaborate K-12 and Higher Education outreach program. Its underlying premise is to support the development of sustainable human habitats that will enable us to live for long periods on Mars and the moon. This involves engineering and science projects associated with Robotics, the production of useful materials from the soil, the sociology of persons living together in small, confined groups, the protection of human biological systems from ultra-violet light and other space dangers, etc. We believe that Hawai'i is the world's most perfect site for this work.

UH Hilo is the ideal site for such a program. It has a long history of concentrating on undergraduate, culturally-sensitive education for our young people. In keeping with this, PISCES is already support two courses for students interested in space. The first one is completely subscribed and we expect similar student interest in the other. PISCES is committed to emphasizing the University of Hawai'i as a *system* and is working with faculty members at several of UH Manoa's colleges to be sure that students throughout the state can benefit from its educational programs without having to move from one island to the other. A coordinated K-12 program of space-related instructional modules is already being developed and will be made available to the children of our state without additional costs to the already-strapped schools.

Department of Physics & Astronomy

200 W. KAWILI STREET
HILO, HAWAII 96720-4091
PHONE: (808) 974-7383
FAX: (808) 974-7693

<http://www.uhh.hawaii.edu>

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PISCES' sensitivity to its hosts is evident in the establishment of a local advisory group to make sure that our scientific activities have support *before*, not after, they are begun. A distinguished panel of Big Islanders will assist us and make sure that PISCES respects our history and culture.

During last year's legislative session, PISCES was fortunate to receive bi-partisan support for a state appropriation to begin its work. In the few months since that appropriation was implemented, PISCES has already received two NASA grants totally \$650,000, written proposals for several more similar grants, and entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Colorado School of Mines both to increase its ability to conduct its work and to improve opportunities for our students. Word is beginning to get out and we are starting to receive unsolicited inquiries from outside agencies asking whether PISCES would be available to collaborate and offering additional support funds. This represents the beginning of the 'leverage' which we believe made PISCES so attractive to last year's legislature.

Clearly, the state's limited resources will not permit indefinite state support for PISCES, no matter how successful it may be. But this second year is a critical time in the development of PISCES and continued support for another year or so is clearly indicated. Put directly, PISCES has done what it said it was going to do and deserves your support. It has attracted many hundreds of thousands of outside dollars, begun programs both in research/development and in community outreach/education, strengthened UH Hilo's ability to serve the students of our state, and brought nationally-respected scientists and educators to Hawai'i. We urge your continued support.



Robert A. Fox, Ph.D.

Professor and Chairman
Department of Physics and Astronomy
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Deputy Director
Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems