



LATE TESTIMONY

DAVID I. ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of

RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

9:45 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

HB 2872 HD1

RELATING TO AEROSPACE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DISTRICTS.

Chairs Chang and Coffman, Vice Chairs Har and Kawakami, and members of the Committees.

The department supports the intent of the HD 1 which amends Chapter 205-4.5 to allow aerospace high technology parks as a permitted use in the State Agricultural District.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MANOA

Water Resources Research Center
Environmental Center

LATE TESTIMONY

February 13, 2012
RL: 2284

HB 2872 HD1
RELATING TO AEROSPACE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DISTRICTS

House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Public Hearing – Tuesday, February 14, 2012
9:45 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 325

By
David Penn, Environmental Center
COMMENTS ONLY

Dear Chair Chang, Chair Coffman, Vice Chair Har, Vice Chair Kawakami, and committee members,

The Environmental Center is concerned that this proposal could allow for the intensive urbanization of agricultural lands in a manner that (1) may unjustifiably override the land use districting authority of the state land use commission and the counties, and (2) as suggested by the preamble of the bill and the report of the Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business, may apparently be intended to serve as a convenient mechanism for constructing a “class of one” facility that would combine a high technology district with a geothermal resource subzone. Whereas the committee report identifies a legislative purpose that “geothermal energy producers provide a specified percentage of their energy output to any aerospace high technology facility within the district at no cost,” the language of the amendment proposed by this same committee merely identifies these districts as a home for unspecified and unfettered “enterprises for the development, processing, or transmission of alternative energy.” Given the extremely broad definition of activities that could be allowed in these new districts, this proposal raises serious questions—and questionable pre-suppositions—about its compatibility with surrounding, bona fide existing agricultural uses and future agricultural development.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this proposed legislation. Please note that our testimony is advisory only and should not be construed to represent an official institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony to the House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean
Resources and Committee on Energy and
Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
9:45 AM
Conference Room 325**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2872, RELATING TO AEROSPACE HIGH
TECHNOLOGY DISTRICTS**

**Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har, Chair Coffman and Vice Chair Kawakami, and
members of the committee.**

My name is Charles Ota and I am the Vice President for Military Affairs at The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (The Chamber). I am here to state The Chamber's support of House Bill No. 2872, Relating to Aerospace High Technology Districts.

The measure proposes to authorize aerospace high technology parks as a permitted use within an agricultural district on land whose soil is classified with the overall (master) productivity rating class C, D, or E.

The Chamber's Military Affairs Council (MAC) serves as the liaison for the state in matters relating to the U.S. military and provides oversight for the State's multi-billion dollar defense industry.

The US military's eminent presence in Hawaii would help in the development of high technology through an aerospace industry, which would contribute towards furthering the diversification of Hawaii's economy. An aerospace industry offers great potential for sustainable long-term economic growth that could help to drive investment to Hawaii and create job opportunities for Hawaii's talented generation of young scientists, engineers, and researchers.

The University of Hawaii at Hilo with its Imiloa Campus and the proximity of Hawaii Island in our island chain would appear to favor Hawaii Island serving as the focus of such an effort.

We support the proposal to permit the use of use of lower productivity agricultural lands to develop aerospace high technology parks.

In light of the critical importance of diversifying the economy, recommend that HB 2872, HD1, be passed.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.