

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
District 4



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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March 27, 2012

TESTIMONY OF DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBER ON

HB 2872, HD 3, SD 1, RELATING TO AEROSPACE HIGH TECHNOLOGY DISTRICTS
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
March 29, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means;

As the Council Member who represents Hawai'i County District 4, I strongly support House Bill No. 2872, HD 3, SD1, and urge you to do the same.

The purpose of this measure is to authorize the establishment of a pilot aerospace high technology district in Hilo that has all the benefits of an enterprise zone.

The establishment of an aerospace high technology park in Hilo would be a huge economic development opportunity for Hawai'i Island. It would attract companies engaged in clean, high-tech research and development activities in aerospace, renewable energy and sustainable agriculture and generate new revenue streams through research and commercial development.

In addition, the project will bring educational and career opportunities to students of the University of Hawai'i system. It will also create an additional influx of research dollars through the nexus that such a park will have with the University. In this district, tenants will engage in activities with each other, and the relationships forged will foster the development and commercialization of other technologies in diverse areas beyond the aerospace industry.

I respectfully ask for your support for HB 2872, HD 3, SD 1, and thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.