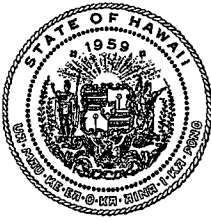


SB 165



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
INTERIM DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of

RICHARD C. LIM
Interim Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 24, 2011

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

SB 165 SD1

RELATING TO AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee. The department supports the intent of SB 165 SD1 to promote the continuing development of the aerospace industry in Hawaii by providing funding for office of aerospace development (OAD) and several of the key initiatives it supports.

Established through Act 149, Session Laws of 2007, OAD was charged with the mandate to identify and promote opportunities for expanding and diversifying aerospace-related activities statewide. Funding requested through this legislation will provide critical support for (1) ongoing OAD operations within our department, and (2) several key initiatives, coordinated through OAD, that afford substantial scientific, educational and economic opportunities for our state.

Specifically, OAD must network with aerospace professionals in both public and private

institutions and organizations nationwide to foster partnerships that can advance aerospace-related activities in Hawaii's academic and business sectors. It must also support innovative projects statewide with significant potential for stimulating economic growth in key sectors.

In accord with these goals, funding requested through this legislation will enable OAD to (1) participate in strategic aerospace meetings at NASA Headquarters, NASA field centers, and major aerospace corporations on the U.S. Mainland; (2) represent Hawaii at major national and international conferences and exhibitions; (3) support innovative programs that can strengthen Hawaii's aerospace resources and capabilities, such as the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES), the Pacific International Space Alliance (PISA), and NASA's Habitat Demonstration Module ; (4) develop public-private partnerships and multinational alliances that can stimulate collaborative research programs and private sector investments; and (5) coordinate the activities of key advisory groups (e.g., the Aerospace Advisory and Starlight Reserve Committees), established by State statute, to support aerospace development in Hawaii.

Aerospace can be an important driver in creating an "innovation economy" for our State. It is a timely growth industry that thrives here because of our location and intrinsic resources, and thus will not be exported as it matures. With very modest up-front investments, aerospace can bring substantial and sustainable scientific, educational and commercial returns to Hawaii, as well as enhance our State's role as both a major contributor to and beneficiary of global space enterprise. As such, I respectfully request your committee's support for this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.