



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

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
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Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

9:35 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of
SR73/SCR137

**REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT
TO COORDINATE COMMENTS AND IDENTIFY A LEAD ENTITY TO PREPARE A
PROPOSAL, ON BEHALF OF THE STATE, FOR HAWAII TO BE SELECTED AS
ONE OF THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION'S SIX UNMANNED
AIRCRAFT SYSTEM TEST SITES.**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee.

The department supports the intent of SR73 and SCR137, which requests that our department's Office of Aerospace Development facilitate Hawaii's bid for selection as one of six national test sites for unmanned aerial systems (UAS), but we are concerned about the cost implications upon our limited resources.

Hawaii, by virtue of its strategic mid-Pacific location, abundant over-water airspace, established instrumented and DoD-managed range infrastructure and associated test expertise, and closely coordinated military and civilian aviation communities, provides an ideal location for evaluating and integrating unmanned aircraft with the national airspace system. Selection of Hawaii as a national UAS test site could bring new high paying jobs and extramural revenue streams to the state, as well as help establish Hawaii as a nationally recognized center of excellence for the development and testing of advanced aviation technologies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.