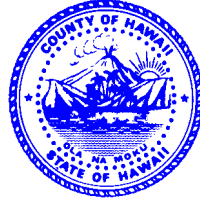


DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396
FAX: (808) 961-8912
EMAIL: donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 21, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members of the House
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 1419.

The goals of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration, or PISCES, are expressed concisely in Section 1 of the bill:

... **To develop a world-class space center in Hawaii** that can facilitate the design, testing, and validation of new technologies that support both robotic and human missions to space. Another goal is **to serve as an economic driver for the island of Hawaii** that will promote the establishment and growth of new sustainable and green industries along with associated jobs, workforce development, internships, and the science, technology, engineering, and math education program.

I believe PISCES will serve an important role in determining whether Hawai'i's best and brightest students in the field of aerospace technology and engineering will be able to stay in Hawai'i, thereby securing a better future for our state. The modest investment secured in this bill, should it pass, will reap rewards many times over for jobs, economic development, state revenue, and in the big picture, the advancement of knowledge for the human exploration of space.

Please support this bill.

Sincerely,

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi
Hawai'i County Council, District 3