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February 25, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
And Members of the House Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: House Bill 725 HD1, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Aloha, Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for House Bill 725 HD1, which would appropriate funds for a program coordinator and technical staff to complete the planning for an international flight training center at the Hilo International Airport.

Today hundreds of Hawai'i students leave the state to attend flight programs on the Mainland because the required academic and practical flight training is unavailable in Hawai'i. This represents a loss of talented young people from our state as well as the loss of millions of dollars in direct expenditures that could be contributing to Hawai'i's economy.

Hilo offers an excellent environment for a world-class international aviation training center, including features such as underutilized land at Hilo airport, low air traffic activity and excellent instrument training opportunities at the airport. Hawai'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo are conveniently located near the airport, and Hilo offers an affordable and welcoming environment for students from the Asia-Pacific region who will be attracted to the aviation program.

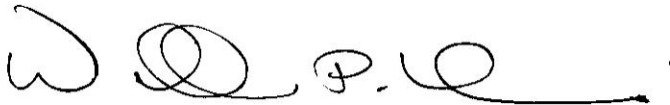
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The Hawai'i Aviation Exploratory Committee that studied the concept of an aviation center pointed out that adding aeronautical training programs at UHH and Hawai'i Community College will open the way to important future advances in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program on both campuses. These programs will help create high technology, high-wage jobs for our young people in areas such as avionics and electronics, flight dispatch, air traffic control, flight operations management, maintenance management and other fields.

We believe the international flight training center and aeronautical training program will be an important addition to Hawai'i's educational offerings, and we ask for your support.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. P. Kenoi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance

Monday, February 25, 2013 at 3:30 p.m.
by
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB725 HD1 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. We support the detailed findings and recommendations of the feasibility report to the 2013 Legislature to establish an international flight training center and associated proposed aeronautical training programs at Hawai'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

Currently, there are no programs in the State of Hawai'i that can prepare students for this high level of academic and practical training. This proposal will help address the future needs of our island economy. UH Hilo views our partnership and collaboration with Hawai'i Community College and other community college campuses as an important component in being able to successfully provide higher education and career options to the people of our Hawai'i Island.

We support HB725 HD1 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB725 HD1. Aloha.

The Honorable Syliva Luke
Chairwoman, House Finance Committee

February 25th 2013

RE: Kaiali'i Kahele
Testimony on HB 725 Relating to Higher Education

Dear Chairwoman Luke and members of the House Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of House Bill 725.

As a member of the aviation exploratory committee convened by Governor Abercrombie after the overwhelming passage of SCR156 last year, extensive studies have been conducted as to the viability and potential impact of a collegiate aviation program in Hawai'i.

The committee found that the proposed aviation program in Hilo, will assist in the diversification of the state's economy and provide an opportunity to gain a reputation as a world class aviation training center servicing the Pacific Rim and beyond. Aspiring high school graduate aviators that have for decades left the islands to get their required training would have the opportunity to stay in Hawai'i, building their flight skills while attaining their collegiate degree.

In addition, aviation-related education and training programs are a high priority for the state's innovation initiative. The proposed programs will be one of many vehicles that will improve the participation and performance of Hawaii's students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

As economies in the Asian Pacific Rim continue their rapid growth a potential avenue exists for the state serving as a center for educating people of these countries in the critical skills necessary to sustain their growth. One such area is in the aviation industry. Air transportation services are a pivotal aspect for supporting the growth of regional and global trade. The forecasted global pilot shortage by the year 2030 by both Boeing and Airbus, highlight the need and demand for these career fields in the near future.

Finally, the pathways that the proposed aviation program will provide to Hawaii's students and residents, is in the best interests of the state and is critical to developing a highly educated, highly skilled economy and workforce. It is with this approach that we as a state will invest in the future generations of Hawaii's people and prepare them for the increasingly competitive global arena.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony and I strongly urge the passage of HB 725 by your committee.

Kaiali'i Kahele

Chairman, Governor's Aviation Exploratory Committee

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2013 11:01 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: blueair@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB725 on Feb 25, 2013 15:30PM

HB725

Submitted on: 2/23/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Augugliaro	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STAND ON MY PREVIOUS TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION ON JAN 31ST 2013. I STRONGLY URGE THE PASSAGE OF HB725 BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE. Mahalo, Steven Augugliaro

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing , improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 23, 2013 8:29 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB725 on Feb 25, 2013 15:30PM*

HB725

Submitted on: 2/23/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2013 15:30PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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