

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2013

The Honorable Isaac W. Choy  
Chair, House Committee on Higher Education  
Conference Room 309  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard  
Testimony on HB 725 Relating to Higher Education  
Before the House Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chairman Choy, Vice Chairwoman Ichiyama and Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support House Bill 725 before the Committee on Higher Education.

The proposed aviation training program in Hilo is a great opportunity to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education in Hawaii. These areas of study are vital to prepare our children to be competitive in the age of global discovery and innovation enterprise that will define the 21st century. For students here in Hawaii and abroad, an aviation training program in Hilo can open up educational and career pathways never before available in this region.

I understand that the report submitted by the Governor's Aviation Exploratory Committee has shown there will be a global pilot shortage in the coming years. The proposed programs at Hawai'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo as well as the International Aviation Training Center at Hilo Airport will address this issue. And, I strongly believe will make a measurable, positive contribution to the State economy and its residents.

I certainly recognize the current fiscal environment, but believe this investment in jobs and education for our families is a step in securing the vitality of our State's economy. I thank you for your consideration of this bill to fund the comprehensive planning of the aviation training program.

Sincerely,



TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Hawaii

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



Testimony of  
GLENN M. OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
JADE BUTAY  
RANDY GRUNE  
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

January 31, 2013

**H.B. 725**  
**RELATING TO EDUCATION**

House Committee(s) on Higher Education & Education

---

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill, which furthers the recommendations of the exploratory committee in establishing an international flight training center in Hilo.

The Department of Transportation is a strong proponent of aviation in Hawaii, and recognizes the synergies that a program offering degrees in aviation would bring to the Hilo community and to the State. Projections indicate a large demand for pilots and maintenance workers that cannot be met with the existing training capacity nationwide. Such a program will position Hawaii and its youth as a source for this burgeoning demand. The local aviation industry and the Hawaii economy will benefit from being able to readily supply personnel for these high paying jobs, which in turn are generated by tuition revenues, expenditures for and by faculty and support staff, and the construction and maintenance of new facilities.

The Airports Division also recognizes the suitability of Hilo International Airport for instrument training, and its capacity to accommodate additional general aviation traffic safely.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



**ichiyama3 - Malia**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 1:48 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** darryllw@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB725 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB725**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Darryll Wong        | Department of Defense | 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Zendo Kern**  
Council Member  
Council District 5

*Mailing Address:*  
Hawai'i County Building  
25 Aupuni Street  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720



Phone: (808) 961-8263  
Fax: (808) 961-8912  
Email: zkern@co.hawaii.hi.us

*Planning Committee Chair*

*Environmental Management  
Committee Chair*

*Hawai'i County Council  
County of Hawai'i*

Date: January 30, 2013

To: The Honorable Chairman Issac Choy, Vice Chairwoman Linda Ichiyama  
and Members of the Committee on Higher Education

From: Hawai'i County Council member Zendo Kern  
District 5, Puna Mauka

RE: Support for House Bill 275

Aloha!

I support House Bill 725 and strongly urge its passage by the Hawai'i State Legislature. The goal of HB 725 is to develop a state-of-the-art collegiate-level aviation training program which includes aircraft, pilot training, simulation and airspace integration. It seeks to address the State's needs for a workforce trained for high priority science and technology fields. The proposed aviation program 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. It will catalyze a child's interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

I strongly urge its passage by your committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Zendo Kern, District 5



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
January 31, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

by  
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB725      RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Choy, Vice Chair Ichiyama, 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 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. Aloha.

## IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

---

Fax No. - 586-6221 and 586-9421

Re: H.B. No. 725, Relating to Higher Education  
Hearing Date - Thur, Jan. 31, 2013, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 309

Committees on Higher Education and Education

Chairs Isaac W. Choy, Roy M. Takumi and Members:

The Ironworkers Union Stabilization Fund, supports the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 725, Relating to Higher Education. Because of Hawaii's limited economic base, we welcome any opportunity to expand the base. The establishment of an international flight training center and associated aeronautical training programs should attract students from Hawaii and the rest of the world which would add to the island of Hawaii's economy.

After completion of their training, our local residents who successfully complete the training would be able to seek employment in Hawaii and elsewhere. If the training is conducted in a professional manner, the students from the mainland and the rest of the world would go back to their communities and spread the word about their training in Hilo which should lead to a constant flow of students from these areas.

And, it should go without saying that employment opportunities for the members of our union would increase.

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**ichiyama3 - Malia**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 4:43 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** jwill@hawaiiintel.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB725 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB725**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John Williams       | 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**ichiyama3 - Malia**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:08 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** daymaria@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB725 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM

**HB725**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maria Kahele        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: I strongly urge the passage of this bill.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)



**ichiyama3 - Malia**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:39 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** racer230@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB725 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM

**HB725**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bo Masuyama         | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: As a local Hilo Boy, I whole heartedly support this bill. I have served in the U.S. Army as a helicopter pilot, the Hawaii Air National Guard as an airplane pilot, and currently work at Hawaiian Airlines as an Airbus A330 First Officer. This program will enable our future pilots from Hawaii to get the finest flight training degree right here at home, dramatically reduce out of pocket cost for the parents due to travel and inflated mainland tuitions, and place them in a competitive position to compete with other 4 year degree graduates across the globe. I look forward to seeing this bill continue along its way in the legislative system.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## ichiyama3 - Malia

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 8:49 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** vvvierra@msn.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB725 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM

### **HB725**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victor V. Vierra    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Aloha! I support House Bill 725 and strongly urge its passage by the Hawai 'i State Legislature. The goal of HB 725 is to develop a state-of-the-art collegiate-level aviation training program which includes aircraft, pilot training, simulation and airspace integration. It seeks to address the State's needs for a workforce trained for high priority science and technology fields. The proposed aviation program 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. It will catalyze a child's interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. I strongly urge its passage by your committee. Thank you for the opportunity to support this bill. Victor V. Vierra Hilo, Hawaii

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**ichiyama3 - Malia**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 29, 2013 9:06 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** dote@me.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB725 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB725**

Submitted on: 1/29/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brian Dote          | 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

Testimony in support of H.B. 725

We are in support of the establishment of an international flight training center and the aeronautical training programs to be established at the Hawaii Community College and the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

On January 26, 2013, the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Science Day hosted its largest attendance of students, parents and teachers (600 along with 200 volunteers) . Keynote speaker, Astronaut Sunita Williams spoke of her journey of becoming the astronaut who now holds several records for being in space and participating in extra vehicular activities; she told the students that sometimes not getting your first choice can lead to a new path that will open new opportunities. Wanting to be a Navy diver (through the Naval Academy), she was not selected; she was selected for helicopter pilot training and flew in the Persian gulf and other places after which she was selected for the Navy test flight program. On a tour of the NASA Johnson Space Center, Astronaut John Young, who is one of 12 Americans to walk on the moon, talked of his lunar lander as being similar to being in a helicopter. Sunita applied to become an astronaut. Among the most sought after workshops annually is the Starbase Hawaii flight simulation training sessions.

In the same way, a flight training center and associated courses in Hilo would become part of the work force development pipeline in science, technology and engineering which already has a foundation in programs offered by the Civil Air Patrol, Starbase Hawaii and other aeronautical programs on the Big Island. The Hilo International Airport is currently underutilized, offers air traffic control, ramp space, nearby over land and over water training airspace, and flight training opportunities in varied weather conditions and provides a nearby proximity to the University of Hawaii at Hilo and the Hawaii Community College. This program and center would attract students statewide, nationally and internationally, while addressing the need for pilots and associated aeronautical technical jobs, while providing technical training and support for other science and technology employment opportunities including those related to the astronomy projects on Mauna Kea.

As educators involved in aerospace education for over 25 years, it is clearly evident that students need a relevant and engaging context to apply their learning science and math. Programs that we have participated in and coordinated including trips to the U.S. Space Camp which includes an aeronautics academy, Department of Education space conferences, Future Flight Hawaii, and local, national and international workshops and professional development, have demonstrated time and again that project based and applied learning provides the needed concrete application of abstract concepts. The training center and programs will become a catalyst toward inspiring the next generation of explorers while providing an economic opportunity for the State of Hawaii.

Astronaut Ellison Onizuka said to the Konawaena High School graduating class in 1985:

"Your vision is not limited to what you can see, but what your mind can imagine. Many things that you can take for granted were considered unrealistic dreams by previous generations. If you accept these past accomplishments as commonplace then think of the new horizons you can explore. From your

vantage point, your education and imagination will carry you to places which we won't believe possible. make your life count-- and the world will be a better place because you tried."

Ellison Onizuka became a flight test engineer in the United States Air Force, and later became Hawaii's first astronaut. In the vision of Ellison Onizuka, we support this unique opportunity to enable our students to reach for the stars.

Art and Rene Kimura  
Educational Specialists  
Hawaii Space Grant Consortium, University of Hawaii at Manoa

HB 725            Relating to Higher Education

Appropriating \$350,000 to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for the study of an aviation training program at Hawaii Community College and the University of Hawaii at Hilo and construction of an International Aviation Training Center at the Hilo International Airport.

The Honorable Chairman Issac Choy, Vice Chairwoman Linda Ichiyama & Members of the Committee on Higher Education

Aloha,

I am writing in support HB725 and strongly urge its passage. I feel this is in the best interest of both the University of Hawaii and the people of Hawaii. The demand for highly trained individuals in aviation careers are expected to increase substantially in coming years and what better way to capitalize on this for our State? I've lived in Grand Forks, North Dakota in the early 1990s and have seen the success of their aviation program. The reasons for that programs success are similar to what's being cited as potential reasons of success for the program here in Hawaii: weather, facilities, and demand. If the program could succeed in the brutally long winters of North Dakota, then I see the potential of a similar program succeeding here as high. I can imagine this program being successful with students from Hawaii, the U.S., and the rest of the world.

I strongly urge its passage at this time and appreciate the opportunity to write in its support.

Mahalo,

Peter Kali Jr

Aiea, Hawaii

**ichiyama3 - Malia**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 11:55 AM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kalaeone\_needham@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB725 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB725**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kalaeone Needham    | 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

## ichiyama3 - Malia

---

**From:** Melanie Kuroiwa-Steiner  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 12:10 PM  
**To:** ichiyama3 - Malia  
**Subject:** HB 725

**From:** Elroy Osorio [<mailto:elroyo@hawaii.rr.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 9:33 AM  
**To:** Sen. Gilbert Kahele; Sen. Russell Ruderman; Sen. Josh Green; Sen. Malama Solomon; Rep. Mark Nakashima; [reptsuji@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:reptsuji@capitol.hawaii.gov); Rep. Faye Hanohano; Rep. Richard Onishi; [repcoffman@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repcoffman@capitol.hawaii.gov). "[smtp6.pauspam.net](mailto:repcoffman@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**Cc:** [wkenoi@co.hawaii.Hi.us](mailto:wkenoi@co.hawaii.Hi.us)  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB725 Hilo Aviation Program

Aloha Hawaii Island Senators and Representatives,

I am in total support of HB725, Hilo Aviation Program.

Years ago, while serving as Chairman of Hawaii's County Council in the late 80's, I was sent to North Dakota to visit and evaluate what was at that time one of the Nation's largest and most active Aviation Training Centers.

Needless to say I was impressed and in awe as to what they had provided for the purposes set out by their State. On my return to Hilo, I believe, although not being absolutely sure, a Resolution was created by the County Council to vigorously support the establishment of an Aviation Training Center in Hilo. Today, it makes even more sense, as our reasons at that time pretty much supports **the many present** reasons being set forth by local businesses, and the University of Hawaii a Hilo.

I have not personally kept any of that data, and I would like to suggest that some member or members of your staff research this matter at the County for your purposes of supporting HB725.

I am sending a copy of my email to Mayor Billy Kenoi, hoping that someone in his staff is able to pull-up all of the information pertaining to our Council's efforts back in the late 80's, and to forward such information to each and every one of you.

Finally, it is my suggestion that you appoint one or more of you, plus a staff member to visit the Aviation Training Center in North Dakota, if they are still in operation.

Aloha,

Elroy Osorio Sr.  
Phone: 808-987-5059



DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI  
Council Member  
District 3



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

**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**  
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

January 30, 2013

The Honorable Isaac W. Choy, Chair  
and Members of the House  
Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chair Choy and Committee Members,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 725.

This bill would appropriate funds for a program coordinator and technical support staff member who would be charged with establishing an international flight training center and associated aeronautical training programs at Hawai'i Community College and at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo.

I fully support this investment in higher education as a way to support pilot training, the advancement of aeronautical knowledge for students, including many from Hawai'i who would not have to leave the state to further their education, and an economic booster for Hawai'i Island.

Sincerely,

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

DO:ps

William P. Kenoi  
*Mayor*



Laverne R. Omori  
*Acting Director*

**LATE**

## County of Hawai'i

### DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205  
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Higher Education

Thursday, January 31, 2013

The Honorable Chairman Isaac Choy, Vice Chairwoman Linda Ichiyama and Members  
of the Committee on Higher Education

HB 725            Relating to Higher Education  
                         Appropriating \$350,000 to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for the study  
                         of an aviation training program at Hawai'i Community College and the  
                         University of Hawai'i at Hilo and construction of an International Aviation  
                         Training Center at the Hilo International Airport

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development, I support  
House Bill 725 and strongly urge its passage by the Hawai'i State Legislature. The goal  
of HB 725 is to develop a state-of-the-art collegiate-level aviation training program  
which includes aircraft, pilot training, simulation and airspace integration.

The Department of Research and Development supports sustainable economic  
development efforts. The proposed aviation program will diversify our local economy,  
provide quality jobs in science and technology, and will open new education and career  
pathways for our students.

I respectfully urge passage of House Bill 725 by your committee. Thank you for the  
opportunity to support this bill.

LAVERNE R. OMORI  
Acting Director

LRO:bd

**LATE**

**James R. Kennedy, PhD**  
**PO Box 1939**  
**Hilo HI 96721**

Representative Clifton Tsuji  
Hawai'i State House of Representative  
Honolulu, HI

January 30, 2013

RE: Strongly in Favor of HB 725

Dear Rep. Tsuji:

I am very pleased to enter my support for this step forward towards establishing a University of Hawai'i aviation program. Although I am speaking here as a private citizen, my professional experience as a scientist, educator, longtime pilot (Commercial Pilot and Flight Instructor), and currently a vice chair of the Hawai'i County Workforce Investment Board brings special meaning to this proposal. I am sure that such a program would be very good for our young people, our State and local economies, and our long-term future.

Most aviation training in the US occurs within one of two venues, many generally small, local flight schools, and a very few larger-scale training institutions. Both have very important places in the grand scheme of things. The importance of larger-scale facilities is the broader and deeper ranges of professional training, and the accompanying facilities and equipment, that can they can bring to bear, especially for training professional pilots and other flight specialties, including rotary-wing aircraft, such as helicopters.

These kinds of programs are really not available on any scale, here in Hawai'i. Nevertheless, there are well-known and well-established models on the Mainland (such as Embry-Riddle and Ohio State) that can be employed here with good results. There is no need to reinvent the wheel to be successful.

At the same time, the State is vitally dependent on aviation as a mainstay to our economy in many different dimensions. A UH program would give our local young people a real leg up in the aviation industry and keep many of them closer to home in the long term. At the same, as the center of the Pacific Rim, it will likely encourage internationals seeking high quality training without having to travel to even greater distances, and into less familiar venues.

The proposed program is very consistent with improving our local sustainability, providing useful and relevant career opportunities for our young people, which would otherwise be out of reach for so many, and providing major international recognition for the University of Hawai'i. These are all very good things, and I commend the imagination and foresight of the people that have done, and will do, the legwork to bring this wonderful concept to fruition.

Respectfully,

*James R. Kennedy*

James R. Kennedy, PhD

ichiyama3 - Malia



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 30, 2013 8:55 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** kimkspringer@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB725 on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM\*

**HB725**

Submitted on: 1/30/2013

Testimony for HED on Jan 31, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kim Springer        | 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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)

The Honorable Chairman Isaac Choy  
Chairman, House Committee on Higher Education

January 31st 2013

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

**LATE**

Dear Chairman Choy, Vice Chairwoman Ichiyama & Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

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