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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS**

Friday, March 22, 2013  
10:30 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of

**HCR 226**  
**EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL FUNDING TO FINANCE A  
COMPREHENSIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL FOR  
ESTABLISHING A WORLD-CLASS COMMERCIAL SPACE LAUNCH AND  
CONTROL FACILITY IN THE STATE OF HAWAII.**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Ward, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism supports the intent of HCR 226, which expresses State support for federal funding to explore options for establishing a commercial space launch and control facility in Hawaii.

This resolution builds upon Hawaii's strategic mid-Pacific, near-equatorial location, advanced telecommunications and IT infrastructure, resident expertise in aerospace technology, and other assets and capabilities that make our State an optimal location to support commercial space launch activities. Such operations would not only advance our nation's aerospace industry, but also expand local transportation and communications infrastructure while providing new technology-based training and employment opportunities to help diversify our economic base.

In addition, the proposed feasibility study would engage Hawaii residents and be conducted in a manner that would ensure the proposed launch facility and operations would be responsive to local development needs as well as cultural and environmental concerns.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

Members of the 27th State Legislature, I am pleased to provide testimony in strong support of HCR226 advocating federal funding for a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate the potential for establishing a world-class commercial space launch and control facility in Hawaii.

I am Fred Eissler a principal at the OisinGroup LLC working on behalf of the partner companies of L4F (Launch for Future.) Thank you for allowing us to present our testimony today. We are in strong support of HCR226. We support advocating of federal funds for a comprehensive feasibility study to evaluate the potential and establishment of a world-class commercial space launch and control facility in the State of Hawaii.

HCR 226 embodies Launch for Future (L4F) both in potential and in establishment of the world's most modern, green, and technologically advanced space launch complex and space operations center on the Big Island of Hawaii. The facility will be powered by the latest green technology and will incorporate the most innovative, cost effective, and proven engineering practices, while maintaining and enhancing Hawaii's pristine environment and ecosystem. This space launch capability will provide long term technology-based economic growth to Hawaii, enhance capitalism in innovative technologies, grow local businesses, support development of environmentally friendly infrastructure, enhance technology intensive education and expand employment opportunity in Hawaii.

Several times in the past, studies have been conducted to explore the feasibility of building a space launch facility in Hawaii. However, previous studies lacked the following:

- A detailed **Economic Plan**
- A detailed plan for unobtrusive **Construction Execution**
- A plan to create and execute **Affordability** in a Private-Public financing approach
- A plan that addressed the **Desires** of all stakeholders
- There was no **Sense of Urgency** to link the plan to immediate needs and opportunities

Three previous technical studies have been conducted to build a space launch capability in Hawaii over the past 50 years. Previous studies did not focus on Commercial/Government partnership for finance and incorporation or the use of green technologies as the centerpiece for building the support infrastructure.

Now is the right time for this study! Our partnership and the people of this great state make an environmentally responsible and technologically feasible space launch capability in Hawaii -- achievable.

Space and green energy technology is the foundation for development that significantly enhances the key features of the Hawaii's environment. By using the latest methods for infrastructure development, minimal impact to the fragile ecosystem can be accomplished. With local leadership that has always been sensitive to the needs of your constituents this project can provide an economic boost that can last for the next hundred years. That economic boost to the locality,

long-term growth for the State, and the path to diversification of the tourism-based economy, in an environmentally responsible way, can and will maintain Hawaii's pristine ecosystem. Establishing a long-term vision for growth not only protects the future of Hawaii, it puts all of the decisions for growth into the hands of the community.

Why should the federal budget fund this study? Federal funds are frequently used to jump start economic development. This project is ideal for federal investment in a public-private partnership. The study and follow-up investment will create jobs, develops a new transportation capability and allows for state of the art improvements in the safe practices for space launch.

What is the benefit to the State of Hawaii? L4F will provide job growth that will increase the tax base for the State of Hawaii and federal government. The joint partnership of government and private sector will stimulate new business. Orlando tourist locations during any given launch week saw a 50% increase in patronage than those weeks without launches. Many federal projects are funded that enhance the quality of life for the general population. L4F will provide jobs, economic growth, science, and innovation to improve the lives of all Americans. Efforts for this study may incorporate and include use of space operations tracking facilities and capabilities in Virginia, Maryland, Colorado, Houston, and legacy systems in Florida and California.

The benefits of this study and the building of a space launch and control capability in Hawaii are numerous and achievable for the citizens of the State of Hawaii and for our Nation. This effort will bring job growth; increase tourism (revenue base) without changing the landscape of Hawaii; and increase technology-based job opportunities for all the people of the state of Hawaii. This effort will help to improve schools and provide high-technology employment opportunities in the state of Hawaii. This study and project will keep high-tech jobs within the state. We can improve infrastructure like roads, power grids, and communications. We can increase tourism revenue and improve economic resilience. This study will be the first step in enabling Hawaii to be synonymous with leadership in responsible economic growth, space exploration, technology, green energy, and environmental responsibility going into the next century.

Hawaii will become the dream of all people who dream of the stars.

Thank you again for allowing our testimony. We eagerly await the passage of HCR 226.

Respectfully,

Fred Eissler