

TULSI GABBARD  
2ND DISTRICT, HAWAII

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BORDER AND MARITIME  
SECURITY  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-1102

300 ALA MOANA BOULEVARD, ROOM 5-104  
HONOLULU, HI 96850  
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502 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4906

<http://www.gabbard.house.gov>

April 1, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard  
Testimony on SB 1221 Relating to Higher Education  
Before the House Committee on Finance

Dear Chairman Luke, Vice Chairman Nishimoto, Vice Chairman Johanson and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1221 before the Committee on Finance.

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



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

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804  
Web site: [www.hawaii.gov/dbedt](http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt)

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

**RICHARD C. LIM**  
DIRECTOR

**MARY ALICE EVANS**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Telephone: (808) 586-2355  
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of

**RICHARD C. LIM**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Monday, April 1, 2013

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of

**SB 1221, SD2, HD1**  
**RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.**

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

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism supports the intent of SB 1221, SD2, HD1 to hire appropriate staff to support an international flight training center and associated degree programs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii Community College.

DBEDT recognizes that the rapidly growing demand for pilots and maintenance workers in the aviation industry cannot be met with the existing training capacity nationwide; and that Hilo, by virtue of its unique meteorological conditions, underutilized land at Hilo International Airport, low air traffic activity, state-of-the-art air controller and radar facilities, and excellent training resources at both UHH and HCC, is ideally located to support the proposed flight training center.

Furthermore, the department concurs that this program can significantly promote the diversification of the State's economy and local aviation industry, catalyze student interest in and pursuit of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) disciplines, and expand Hawaii's reputation as a world-class aviation training center serving the Pacific Rim and beyond.

As such, we support this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

April 1, 2013  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**S.B. 1221, S.D. 2, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

House Committee on Finance

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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.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1221 SD2 HD1  
A BILL RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

PRESENTATION TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
ADJUTANT GENERAL

April 1, 2013

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

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 1221 SD2 HD1.

SB 1221 SD2 HD1 will develop a state-of-art college level aviation training program that will include aircraft, pilot training, simulation and air space integration.

This proposed aviation training program will assist the diversification of Hawaii's economy. It will provide a workforce trained for high priority science and technology careers. It will provide an aviation training center which services the Pacific Rim. The aviation program provides for a long-overdue avenue for our Hawaii youth in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas.

I strongly urge you to pass SB 1221 SD2 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**William P. Kenoi**  
*Mayor*



**Walter K.M. Lau**  
*Managing Director*

**Randall M. Kurohara**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 1, 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: Senate Bill 1221 SD2 HD1, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Aloha, Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 1221 SD2 HD1, which as originally drafted 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.

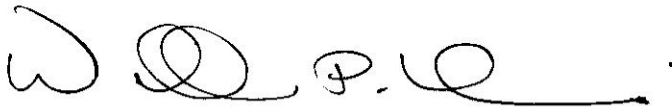
The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Page 2  
April 1, 2013

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 line extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi  
MAYOR

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

March 30, 2013

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

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of this bill.

I represent Hawai‘i County’s 3rd Council District, which includes Hilo International Airport and its surrounding communities. I have seen this airport, a tremendous asset to our island, go underused. I believe the modest \$350,000 investment contained in this bill for fiscal years 2014 and 2015 will go a long way toward supporting both our economy and the higher education needs of our citizens.

Many of our smart and dedicated island youth seeking careers in aviation know Hilo International Airport as a place where they bid farewell to their families, as they seek better educational opportunities abroad. We need to encourage them to stay here so they may benefit from the programs available here. We also need to reach out to the wider Pacific region to attract to a world-class international aviation training center. **This will bring millions of dollars into our economy from abroad, stimulating economic development and job growth.** We cannot rely on tourism alone in East Hawai‘i – we need to invest in diverse economic sectors, including higher education. Senate Bill 1221, as amended, will help us achieve this goal.

This bill has advanced to your committee with the support of a broad range of state and community leaders, including Mayor Kenoi, the chancellor of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, the director of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, the director of the Department of Transportation and the adjutant general of the Department of Defense. Please consider the weight of their testimony as well.

Sincerely,

Dennis “Fresh” Onishi



**MAKAKILO/ KAPOLEI/ HONOKAI HALE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 34**

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c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 406 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813  
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Luke and members of the Committee on Finance,

I strongly support Senate Bill 1221. As a pilot myself, I can say first hand, this aviation school in Hilo will provide an avenue for our community to pursue their dreams in aviation. I have personally talked with students from the Leeward district from Civil Air Patrol, Youth Challenge and JROTC. Most have expressed an interest in becoming pilots or joining a career related to aviation.

In these tough economic times, a premier flight school such as the one created in this bill, will provide a more realistic opportunity for struggling families to send their children to flight school. Currently, many children have to attend out-of-state aviation schools to receive the proper training to become pilots. Imagine the amount of money saved for these families. Also, all of the funds used, will remain right here in the state of Hawaii. This bill just makes sense.

Therefore, I humbly ask for this committee to support SB 1221. The children of Hawaii have waited too long for a local premier aviation school right here in this precious state.

//Signed//

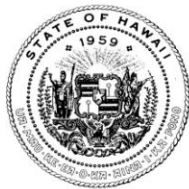
Troy Cullen  
Chairman  
Neighborhood Board No. 34





NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

GLENN OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
COMMISSION ON TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

VACANT, CHAIR  
VACANT, VICE-CHAIR  
JOHN A. ERVIN  
LESTER H. FUKUDA  
RALPH HIATT  
ERIC MATSUDA  
OWEN MIYAMOTO  
PETE PASCUA  
JOHN B. RAY  
SHAWN SMITH

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 1, 2013

**TESTIMONY OF OWEN MIYAMOTO, COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION  
ON SENATE BILL 1221, SD2, HD1 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Honorable Scott Nishimoto and Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chairs  
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance,

**I am providing comments on Senate Bill 1221, SD2, HD1 Relating to Higher Education.**

I am a member of the Commission on Transportation, former Airports Administrator for the Department of Transportation, and Lecturer at Honolulu Community College. I have knowledge of the efforts in the past to establish flight training at Hilo International Airport as well as Kona International Airport. I am also familiar with the work that resulted in the establishment of the commercial aviation program provided by Honolulu Community College at Kalaeloa Airport, the former Barbers Point Naval Air Station.

To establish flight training at Hilo International Airport, the University of Hawaii must be prepared to make a substantial financial commitment in order to succeed. The operation of Hilo Airport is regulated by grant assurances to the Federal Aviation Administration accepted by the Department of Transportation. The facilities needed at the airport must be constructed by the University or its contractor on lands leased from the DOT. At Kalaeloa Airport, the University of Hawaii was granted a deed to the land from the US Department of Education under the Base Closure Act for Barbers Point Naval Air Station. The property included a large hangar, which the University renovated at substantial cost to house the commercial aviation program for Honolulu Community College. Since the land for the hangar is not on DOT property, the College is not required to pay any lease rental as it does for the facilities leased from DOT at Honolulu International Airport.

If the University of Hawaii intends to proceed with a program that essentially duplicates what is available at Honolulu Community College, it must do so in full recognition of the financial impact to its budget and the cost that will be passed on to the students in the flight program. There are many lessons to be learned from the extensive experience by others who believe there is a long range potential for flight training in Hawaii to meet the growing demand for pilots in the Pacific Region.

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments on Senate Bill 1221.**



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
April 1, 2013 at 2:00pm

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

SB1221 SD2 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 SB1221 SD2 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 SB1221 SD2 HD1. Aloha.

Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, House Committee on Finance

Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair, House Committee on Finance

Testimony in support of S.B. 1221, SD2, HD1

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



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®  
**HAWAII**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

March 31, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Joyce Hamasaki, Interim Dean Career and Technical Education  
Testimony on SB 1221 Relating to Higher Education  
Before the House Committee on Finance

Dear Chairman Luke, Vice Chairman Nishimoto, Vice Chairman Johanson and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1221 before the Committee on Finance.

The proposed aviation training program in Hilo represents a great opportunity to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in Hawai'i, and particularly on Hawai'i Island. Currently opportunities for flight training in the State are limited and many students are seeking this education on the mainland, once again, leading to the "brain drain" Hawai'i is unfortunately known for.

Bill 1221 proposes that Hawaii Community College develop programs to train students as Helicopter Pilots and to operate Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS). Both of these programs would have numerous benefits to the Big Island's people. They would create educational opportunities and pathways in professional STEM programs, put Hawai'i at the forefront of the rapidly growing and highly technical UAS field, and create opportunities for high paying jobs in the aviation industry.

I strongly support and urge you to pass Bill 1221.

Sincerely,

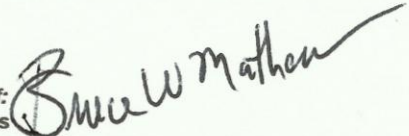
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joyce Hamasaki".

Joyce Hamasaki, Interim Dean, CTE

Hawaii Community College



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
**HILO**

*From the Desk of:*   
Bruce W. Mathews  
Interim Dean & Professor of Soils and Agronomy  
College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource  
Management (CAFNRM)  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
April 1, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

by

Dr. Bruce Mathews  
Interim Dean and Professor of Soil Science  
College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 1221 – RELATING HIGHER EDUCATION

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

My name is Bruce Mathews and I am Interim Dean and Professor of Soil Science & Agronomy in the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) and a member of the exploratory committee under SCR 156. I write in support of SB 1221 SD2 HD1 and the recommendations in the report to the 2013 Legislature to establish an international flight training center and associated proposed aeronautical training programs at Hawai'i Community College (HawCC) and UH Hilo.

The committee found that Hilo provides a combination of unique advantages that would contribute strong potential for a successful program. These factors include the capacity of the Hilo International Airport (HIA) property and the classification of the airspace, an active local aviation community, and the proximity of HawCC and UH Hilo to HIA. Support to better quantify and assess the overall feasibility of both two- and four-year programs at HawCC and UH Hilo will allow us to determine what is required to meet the academic goals of the respective programs as well as the parameters that would facilitate beneficial interactions with the other UH community colleges. An enhanced feasibility study will also allow for a more precise analysis of the potential economic impact. Mahalo.

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[www.hilo.hawaii.edu](http://www.hilo.hawaii.edu)

An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Institution

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
April 1, 2013 at 2:00pm  
by  
Ken Morris, Ph.D.  
Professor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB1221 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

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

My name is Ken Morris and I am a professor at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and a member of the exploratory committee under SCR 156. I write in support of SB1221 SD2 HD1 and the recommendations in the 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.

Among other findings, the committee found that Hilo offers a unique combination of factors to enable the program including: the close proximity of the airport to UH Hilo and Hawai'i Community College; the classification of the airspace; the capacity of the airport property; and an active aviation community (as seen in the exploratory committee membership). Between UH Hilo and Hawai'i Community College, the support to assess feasibility will allow us to determine what is required to cover both the two-year and four-year academic goals of the programs as well as what is needed to facilitate our interaction with other community college campuses.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB1221 SD2 HD1. Aloha.

April 1, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Conference Room 308  
State Capital  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Joseph K. Kina  
Testimony on SB 1221 Relating to Higher Education  
Before the House Committee on Finance

Dear Chairman Luke, Vice Chairman Johanson, Vice Chairman Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I am grateful for your time, and I am writing to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1221 to the House Committee on Finance.

I support the bill for establishing an exploratory committee to research the feasibility of an International Aviation Training Center at Hilo International Airport and advanced aviation degree training programs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii Community College.

The pursuit to obtain advanced degrees in aerospace, as well as, building the hours needed to obtain my aeronautical ratings has taken me nearly 12 years, 3 universities, 2 states, and well over \$100,000. I have an Associate of Science in Commercial Aviation (AVIT) from Honolulu Community College (HCC), Commercial Pilot Certification from the University of North Dakota Aerospace, and a Bachelor of Science in Professional Aeronautics from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. I was a student at HCC from spring 2004-spring 2010. Concurrently, I was an AVIT Lecturer at HCC from spring 2009-fall 2010. I taught the Private Pilot Course (AVIT 102), Aviation Weather (AVIT 228), Aviation Safety (AVIT 208), and Special Studies (AVIT199V). Before I got hired to become a C-17A pilot with the Hawaii Air National Guard, I was working 4 part time jobs to make ends meet. The reason I am telling you this is to explain, through my experience, how difficult it is for an individual to obtain quality education and flight training in the state of Hawaii. Due to these difficulties, most of my peers left the state of Hawaii to pursue their careers.

I support SB 1221 because it will allow the research necessary to establish a much needed, centrally located center for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). The proposed courses submitted by the Governor's Aviation Exploratory Committee will infuse STEM into their Helicopter, UAV, and Airplane programs. This blending of the sciences can be done efficiently due to the current programs in astronomy at Mauna Kea and the general science courses located in Hilo. This is important to the community of Hilo because it will provide for local economic growth and pave a clear path for future generations to pursue aerospace related fields. This is important to the state of Hawaii because it will keep our residents in state for their education and careers. SB 1221 is important to our country because it will reduce the chances of out-sourced airline jobs due to the pilot shortage statistics that Boeing and Airbus have calculated. An International Aviation Training Center in Hilo could provide increased economic flow for our world because of its strategic location in the Pacific Rim. Foreign students who have passed the proper TSA security measures could increase our economy and grow increased trust amongst our nations. I realize that we are in difficult economic times now, but investing now in our future generations' education can only bring a positive return on investment.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider SB 1221 as a worthwhile investment. I have told my story to explain that there is currently no single, centrally located program that can provide a Bachelor's degree or higher while providing flight training in the state of Hawaii. Hilo's location is prime because of its underutilized land, unique weather, lower Air Traffic congestion in relation to Oahu, and its location to Mauna Kea for advanced STEM research. Thank you for your time and considerations.

Very Respectfully,

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Joseph K. Kina, C-17A Pilot, Hawaii Air National Guard



April 1st 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Conference Room 308  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI, 96813

RE: Kaiali'i Kahele  
Testimony on SB1221 Relating to Higher Education  
Before the House Committee on Finance

Dear Chairman Luke, Vice Chairman Nishimoto, Vice Chairman Johanson and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1221 before the Committee on Finance.

As the chairman 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 top caliber collegiate aviation program in Hawai'i.

The committee found that the proposed aviation program in Hilo, would be on the forefront of a forecasted global pilot shortage in the next 15 years. An estimated one million jobs will need to be created of which 500,000 jobs will be to fill the commercial pilot vacuums created due to massive retirements and the expansion of a global aircraft fleet. As world demand for pilots and other highly skilled aviation personnel increases and the imminent introduction of Unmanned Aircraft Systems or (UAS's) into the civilian aviation airspace structure, Hawai'i is in an excellent position to take advantage of that global demand. The proposed programs will also 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.

Unfortunately there is no collegiate program in Hawai'i that is in the caliber of the top aviation programs at our nation's universities. Aspiring high school graduate aviators that continue and have for decades left the islands to get their required flight training, would have the opportunity to stay in Hawai'i, building their flight skills while attaining their collegiate four year degree.

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 SB1221 by your committee.

Kaiali'i Kahele

Chairman, Governor's Aviation Exploratory Committee



**Hawai'i State House of Representatives**

**Committee on Finance**

**Monday, April 1, 2013 Hearing**

**2:00 P.M.-Conference Room 308**

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 1221, SD 2, HD 1 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the House of Representatives Committee on Higher Finance.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1221, SD 2, HD 1, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for the hiring of a program coordinator and technical support staff member to complete the planning and studies required for the international flight training center and the proposed aeronautical training program with which to further the goal of growing the aeronautics industry in the State of Hawai'i.

As stated in the Governor's Aviation Exploratory Committee report, there will be a pilot shortage in the coming years which could directly impact the State of Hawaii and the Tourism Industry here, which is so vital to our economic well-being. An international flight training center and aeronautical training programs at Hawai'i Community College and the University of Hawai'i at Hilo would help meet this need for skilled pilots and maintenance workers head on and help to secure the needs of our State's economy in the future.

Furthermore, these programs will help to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education here in Hawaii and motivate students to pursue studies in these academic areas. An international flight training center and aeronautical training programs will also help to diversify the State's economy and local aviation industry by creating jobs keeping local students in the State who would otherwise be required to attend programs on the Mainland.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and Mahalo for your consideration.



Ann Botticelli  
Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications/Public Affairs

The Honorable Chairman Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Higher Education

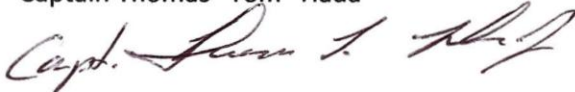
The Honorable Chairman Will Espero  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Dear, Chairman Taniguchi, Chairman Espero and members of the Joint Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1221.

My name is Captain Thomas Hada, I have been flying in the Hawaiian islands since 1985. I am a Boeing 767 300 ER Captain for Hawaiian Airlines. I am in support SB1221. I learned to fly at the Hilo Airport and did my advance flight training at Air Service Hawaii. These were private flight schools and not colleges. Had a campus been available within the State of Hawaii, thousands of dollars could have stayed in the state of Hawaii. I urge the swift passage of this bill by your committee and the Hawaii State Legislature.

Captain Thomas "Tom" Hada

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Capt. Tom Hada".

Boeing 767 International Captain

3/29/2013

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**SB1221**

Submitted on: 3/29/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: As I mentioned in previous testimony, I support the intent of this legislation and strongly urge the members of the Committee to do the same.

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Testimony Against SB 1221  
by Peter Forman  
pforman@hawaii.edu

#### Summary of Opposition to SB1221

Although I am testifying as a private individual, I am very closely involved in the University of Hawaii system's flight training program. Only one program exists statewide, and that program is conducted by Honolulu Community College at the Kalaeloa Airport on Oahu. My position with HCC is as asst. professor of commercial aviation. My title is "coordinator" because I run the program as a faculty member. We currently have about 60 students, nearly all Hawaii residents, learning to become commercial airline pilots with us.

#### Background:

Airline Transport Pilot, Certified Flight Instructor- Instrument and Advanced

Flew as pilot with TWA for more than 20 years and retired as a captain with experience in both domestic and international operations.

Before my jet years I flew several years as interisland pilot with Royal Hawaiian Air Service, Air Molokai, Air Hawaii, and many more small operators. I have been a flight instructor for more than 30 years.

#### Concerns about SB 1221

**1) No discussion has taken place yet between the University of Hawaii's existing flight training program and individuals proposing a new flight training program in Hilo.** The biggest problem created by this lack of discussions is that flight programs will need to evolve into 4 year programs in order to remain competitive, due to a proposed change to Federal Air Regulations that will become effective this summer. The new law will give students a 500 hour reduction in hours for becoming first officers with regional and major airlines if they graduate from 4 year aviation collegiate programs. Why spend \$350,000 before the university has taken a close look at how it will allocate its commercial aviation resources? If only one 4 year program can exist within the system, the logical choice would be for that program to be an expansion of the current program at Oahu's Kalaeloa Airport for the following reasons:

- 1) Kalaeloa Airport is far enough from population centers so that noise concerns by the community are not an issue.
- 2) Kalaeloa Airport has some of the best weather in Hawaii while Hilo has marginal weather for flying, much of the time. The consequences of bad weather at Hilo include significantly more cancelled training sessions due to bad weather and a significant reduction in the safety of cross-country flying.
- 3) The infrastructure at Honolulu Community College's can support a flight program that is many times larger than the current program without spending a dime on additional buildings. At Hilo, the facilities would have to be built from scratch at a cost of millions of dollars.
- 3) Honolulu Community College's existing operation is located on Hawaii's most populated island. If these students were expected to complete years 3 and 4 in Hilo, additional costs for room and board would impact the cost of learning to fly.
- 4) A flight program needs a certain critical mass in order for it to become profitable for a flight provider, and HCC's program at Kalaeloa Airport has recently achieved this suitable level of flying activity with an average of nearly 200 hours of flight each month. The dilution of flying by creating a second collegiate flight training program in the state could cause both operations to become unprofitable to flight providers and require subsidies by the university.
- 5) Advocates for the Hilo flight training program are pushing for a 2+2 program that will lead to bachelor's degrees in aviation. I am told that the Hilo proponents envision that graduates from Honolulu

Community College's program will be expected to transfer to Hilo to complete their 4 year degrees, rather than completing the degrees in a 2+2 program between Honolulu Community College and a UH campus on Oahu. The problems with sending upperclassmen to Hilo are many and include:

a) **The Kalaeloa facility would become short of flight instructors**, since flight instructors are typically graduates of our programs. Once a flight instructor acquires 1000 hours of flight time (about a year and a half's worth of flight instructing) that pilot will move on to a regional airline job and become unavailable for further instructing. For this reason, it is essential that the upperclassmen remain on the same island as they learned to fly on so that their skills as flight instructors can be used to train the next group of pilots.

b) Students in years 3 and 4 need to be trained in skills such as jet bridge training and how to function as a member of a crew. Who better than a former airline pilot can teach these skills? I have already used my experience as an airline pilot to improve the training program at HCC. Honolulu Community College also employs the chief ground instructor of Island Air as a lecturer. We have a good working relationship with Hawaiian Airlines, which will be getting a Level D (most sophisticated) Airbus 330 simulator in Honolulu within a year. A partnership with Hawaiian Airlines would allow reduced-cost training in this sophisticated simulator by advanced students in Honolulu Community College's program. Hilo would offer no such opportunities. Why move the most advanced flight students to a location which lacks certain critical hardware and faculty that are experienced airline pilots?

c) Students in years 3 and 4 need to begin networking for their next jobs once 1,000 hours of flight time are built, and the vast majority of the aviation jobs in the state are based in Honolulu. Hilo students will be at a disadvantage for this reason.

**2) The proposed Hilo flight program is based upon a pricing model that is unaffordable to most Hawaii families.** A four year aviation program can produce excellent pilots at an affordable price, as you will see if Honolulu Community College is allowed to find a partner in the near future and create a 2 + 2 program. Unfortunately, the proposed fees for the Hilo program are based upon some of the most expensive private aviation colleges in the nation. Additionally, aircraft choices for the Hilo program and high profit margins for the flight provider will unnecessarily place this four year program out of the reach of most aspiring Hawaii resident flight students. A public university system is expected to offer value to the students, and yet the Hilo proposal departs from the value scenario in a major way. Decision makers really need to sit down with a team from Honolulu Community College and see our plans and pricing for a 2 + 2 program to understand how vast the difference would be between the two programs.

The net result of placing the new flight program in Hilo and pricing it as if a private college is providing the service will be that few Hawaii students will choose to attend. Consider Guidance Aviation, the helicopter training company that partners with Yavapai College in Arizona and has obviously influenced the pricing model of the proposed Hilo flight program. Guidance suggested the same three high-priced private colleges (Embry-Riddle, Yavapai College, and Purdue) when it asked to become the flight provider at Honolulu Community College and wanted to show comparable training costs. Guidance's initial proposal would have doubled the hourly training costs for our students and would have raised the cost of the program by many tens of thousands of dollars for each student. Yet I see this same type of pricing structure proposed in the Hilo flight program and such pricing is not appropriate for a public university system.

In Hawaii, you have primarily two types of flight students: those with considerable financial resources behind them and those without. The students with the financial resources typically want to attend a 4 year aviation college on the mainland. They want the experience of flying on the mainland and to

experience a mainland-style campus atmosphere. These students are typically aware enough about weather to realize that Hilo offers less-desirable flying weather than either Arizona or Florida. These well-to-do students will for the most part continue seeking 4 year college degree on the mainland. On the other side of the economic spectrum you have the majority of today's students: those who struggle to pay for their flight educations. Federal student loans do not provide enough money for a student to proceed at a normal pace at a competitively-priced flight program, and federal student loans would be particularly insufficient at a program that is priced 50-80% higher than a competitively-priced program. These students will continue to seek value and will steer clear of the high-priced Hilo campus.

Who would fly at the Hilo facility then? The flight provider would likely advertise heavily and attract some students from the mainland and maybe a handful of students from Hawaii. The majority of the students would be former servicemen using their VA-benefits, because these students are not price-conscious. Legislators would be surprised years from now to learn that the residents they are tasked with providing for make up a rather small portion of the students at the Hilo aviation training center.

### **My Suggestion**

The University of Hawaii does not currently offer helicopter training or training in the piloting of unmanned remote aircraft. These are appropriate subjects for a training center in Hilo to focus upon. Noise complaints by Hilo residents are far less likely if fixed-wing aircraft training continues to take place at Honolulu Community College's Kalaeloa Airport location. Because Oahu's flight program already has the physical infrastructure to expand many times over without additional building costs, this program could evolve into a top-notch 4 year program for a small percentage of the cost of developing a similar program in Hilo, and the flight program on Oahu would be competitively-priced, unlike the Hilo program. The time to have the discussion of where the University of Hawaii will spend its aviation education resources is now. The University of Hawaii should undertake a spirited debate regarding the plans of both the Hilo and Oahu locations on how they would implement training for commercial airline pilots. That discussion should take place before the state spends hundreds of thousands of dollars and commits itself to an expensive course of action.



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**SB1221**

Submitted on: 3/29/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalae Needham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I highly support this as this provides a great opportunity for aviation opportunities in Hilo.

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**SB1221**

Submitted on: 3/30/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bo Masuyama	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I continue to stand on my previous testimony in strong support of SB1221 and look forward to being at the hearing to answer any questions related to my role on the committee in regards to Aviation training in the city of Hilo.

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**SB1221**

Submitted on: 3/31/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alfred Basioa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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### **SB1221**

Submitted on: 3/30/2013

Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jason Lilly	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Mililani graduate, I had to move to the mainland for 10+ years to obtain an aerospace engineering education and additional experience to return to support and fly for the Hawaii for the Air National Guard. I highly encourage our leaders of our country and state to support such an effort to provide aviation education opportunities for our State and Nations' youth.

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The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance

April 1, 2013

RE: Steven Augugliaro  
Testimony on SB 1221 Relating to Higher Education before the House Committee  
on Finance

Dear Chairman Luke, Vice Chairman Nishimoto, Vice Chairman Johanson and members  
of the Committee on Finance,

First of all, thank you for considering my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1221.

I have been blessed beyond my wildest dreams to serve the state of Hawaii, and our nation by flying F-15's, and F-22's in the Hawaii Air National Guard since 2002. Before becoming a pilot, I enlisted in the Hawaii Air National Guard as an avionics technician, working on C-130 aircraft from 1995-2000. Prior to that, I attended Moanalua high school from 1991-1995. As a freshman and sophomore in high school, I thought the only way I could achieve my dreams of becoming a pilot was to join the active duty Air Force and leave Hawaii for a 20 year career, and maybe return as an airline pilot. But my junior year at Moanalua, while I was in JROTC, we took a field trip to Hickam AFB, and I got to ride on a KC-135 refueler plane from the Hawaii Air National Guard. That was the first time I learned about the Guard, and the awesome opportunity it offered, of allowing folks to serve their state and nation, right here at home!

I personally know a hand-full of pilots from Hawaii who were not as fortunate as me to be able to start or have a career in aviation here. They felt that their only serious option was to leave our state, and pursue their flying dreams in schools around the nation such as Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, University of North Dakota, and the U.S Air Force Academy. I know for a fact, if they had the opportunity to stay in Hawaii and learn to fly, while achieving a college education, they would have stayed right here at home. And this is one of many reasons why I believe so strongly in establishing such an aviation program in Hawaii.

There are so many benefits to learning to fly in Hawaii. The great, year-round weather is one of the biggest draws I can think of. If you ask any pilot if they would rather have learned to fly in North Dakota, where they're battling harsh winter weather, or Hawaii, where you can fly any month of the year in near-perfect learning conditions, I can almost guarantee which one they would pick. This would also be a big consideration for people in the mainland who are looking for an avenue to gain their pilot ratings while earning a college degree.

I believe the Aviation Exploratory Committee will be able to examine and communicate all of the detailed benefits that a collegiate aviation program would bring to Hawaii. I just wanted to share a very small perspective from someone lucky enough to live the dream and live Hawaii!

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony in favor of SB 1221. Mahalo.

Steven Augugliaro

March 31, 2013

The Honorable Sylvia Luke  
Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Conference Room 308  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Lance Hamasaki  
Testimony on SB 1221 Relating to Higher Education  
Before the House Committee on Finance

Dear Chairman Luke, Vice Chairman Nishimoto, Vice Chairman Johanson and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 1221 before the Committee on Finance.

The proposed aviation training program in Hilo represents a great opportunity to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in Hawai'i, and particularly on Hawai'i Island. Currently opportunities for flight training in the State are limited and many students are seeking this education on the mainland, once again, leading to the "brain drain" Hawai'i is unfortunately known for.

Bill 1221 proposes that Hawaii Community College develop programs to train students as Helicopter Pilots and to operate Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS). Both of these programs would have numerous benefits to the Big Island's people. They would create educational opportunities and pathways in professional STEM programs, put Hawai'i at the forefront of the rapidly growing and highly technical UAS field, and create opportunities for high paying jobs in the aviation industry.

I strongly support and urge you to pass Bill 1221.

Sincerely,

Lance Hamasaki

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**SB1221**

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Testimony for FIN on Apr 1, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James McCully	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Aloha Chair Luke and Members of the House FIN Committee I continue to strongly support SB1221 and stand on my previously submitted testimony. Rarely does a communities needs and resources so neatly coincide as does the proposal to develop aviation training and education in Hilo. Mahalo for your support James McCully

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**SB1221**

Submitted on: 3/29/2013

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support passage of this bill to allow funds distributed into courses and training for aviation training in Hawaii.

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