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HAWAII ISLAND CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

494-C Kalanikoa Street * Hilo, Hawaii 96720 * Phone: 808/935-1316 * Fax: 808/934-7779 * Email: hical@hawaiiantel.net

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Monday April 1, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308**

**RE:SB1221 SD2
Relating to Higher Education**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of this Committee,

My name is Craig Takamine and I am writing this letter on behalf of the Hawaii Island Contractors Association and our 130+ member companies on Hawaii Island. The Hawaii Island Contractors Association supports SB1221 SD2, Relating to Higher Education, which would appropriate funds for a program coordinator and technical staff to complete the planning for an international flight training center at the Hilo International Airport.

With the ever increasing demand for pilots and various aviation related jobs this bill would allow our keiki the opportunity to study and earn a degree here on Hawaii island. The economic benefits to our island would be substantial and number in the millions. An international flight training center would also serve to diversify our economy and create jobs both during the construction phase and permanent positions once completed.

We believe that the international flight training center is very important to the County Of Hawaii and the State. Please support this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Takamine", written over a white background.

**Craig Takamine
President 2012-2013**