

**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 & Tourism  
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Friday, February 22, 2013

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 221

in consideration of

**SB 1221, SD1**

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism supports the intent of SB 1221 SD1 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 our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
and the  
Friday, February 22, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.  
by  
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 1221 SD1 – RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani 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 SD1 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 SD1. Aloha.

Honorable Senator David Ige, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in support of S.B. 1221

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [racer230@gmail.com](mailto:racer230@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 5:05:39 PM

---

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bo G. Masuyama	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STAND ON MY PREVIOUS TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS ON FEB 12 2013. I STRONGLY URGE THE PASSAGE OF SB1221 BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

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)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [villarimo@hotmail.com](mailto:villarimo@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:57:27 AM

---

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Lowe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STAND ON MY PREVIOUS WRITTEN AND ORAL TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS ON FEB 12 2013. I STRONGLY URGE THE PASSAGE OF SB1221 BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [jwill@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:jwill@hawaiiantel.net)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 11:40:01 AM

---

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kahelek@gmail.com](mailto:kahelek@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:24:06 AM

---

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaialii Kahele	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: I STAND ON MY PREVIOUS WRITTEN AND ORAL TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS ON FEB 12 2013. I STRONGLY URGE THE PASSAGE OF SB1221 BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS. MAHALO, KAIALII KAHELE

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)



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [kalaeone\\_needham@yahoo.com](mailto:kalaeone_needham@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 10:52:38 AM

---

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalaeone Needham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I STAND ON MY PREVIOUS TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS ON FEB 12 2013. I STRONGLY URGE THE PASSAGE OF SB1221 BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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 Brian T. Taniguchi  
Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Taniguchi, Vice Chairman Kahele and Senate Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

For back ground, I am a Commercial Helicopter and Airplane Pilot with over 23 years of aviation experience and over 4 years of experience flying in the State of Hawaii. I have also spent over 10 years instructing our future aviators.

The proposed aviation training program in Hilo is a great opportunity to enhance our education opportunities in Hawaii. The Hawaiian Island Chain is very geographically unique from an aviator's point of view as it offers almost every possible type of aviation training environment. In a relatively small geographic area a pilot can experience sea level operations, mountainous terrain, high density altitude environments, and visual and instrument meteorological conditions. Student pilots would benefit greatly from being able to experience all of these conditions in the very earliest phases of training.

Multiple sources have shown there will be a global pilot shortage in the coming years. This proposed aviation program will give Hawaii the opportunity to get ahead of this shortage and provide a positive contribution to the State economy and its residents.

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

Kevin J. Dobzyniak

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [blueair@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:blueair@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 3:25:25 PM

---

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: I STAND ON MY PREVIOUS TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS ON FEB 12 2013. I STRONGLY URGE THE PASSAGE OF SB1221 BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS. Mahalo, Steven W. Augugliaro

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

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

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [tabraham08@gmail.com](mailto:tabraham08@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 5:28:59 PM

---

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

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

Comments: "I STAND ON MY PREVIOUS TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS ON FEB 12 2013. I STRONGLY URGE THE PASSAGE OF SB1221 BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS"

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)

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [vvierra@msn.com](mailto:vvierra@msn.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 19, 2013 4:14:14 PM

---

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/19/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 22, 2013 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

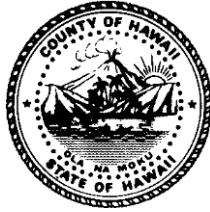
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor V. Vierra	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I STAND ON MY PREVIOUS TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS ON FEB 12 2013. I STRONGLY URGE THE PASSAGE OF SB1221 BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

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)

**William P. Kenoi**  
*Mayor*



**LATE**

**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

February 22, 2013

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
And Members of the Senate Committee on  
Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 1221 SD1, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Aloha, Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 1221, which would appropriate funds for a program coordinator and technical staff to complete the planning for an international flight training center at the Hilo International Airport.

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

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

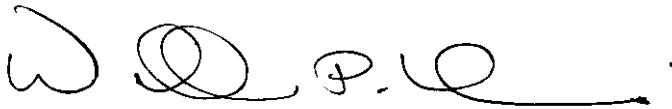
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Page 2  
February 22, 2013

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 flourish extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi  
MAYOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1221 SD1  
A BILL RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

PRESENTATION TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG  
ADJUTANT GENERAL  
February 22, 2013

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

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

SB 1221 SD 1 will develop a state-of-art college level aviation training program that will include aircraft, pilot training, simulation and air space integration.

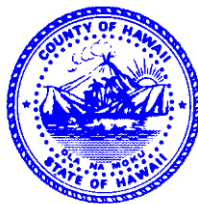
This proposed aviation training program will assist the diversification of Hawaii's economy. It will provide a workforce trained for high priority science and technology careers. It will provide an aviation training center which services the Pacific Rim. The aviation program provides for a long-overdue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

I strongly urge you to pass SB 1221 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI  
Council Member  
District 3



**LATE**

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

February 21, 2013

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
and Members of the Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Senator Ige and Committee Members,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1221.

This bill would appropriate funds for a program coordinator and technical support staff member who would be charged with establishing a world-class, 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, including many from Hawai'i who would not have to leave the state to further their education. Your approval would help to boost the economy of Hawai'i, especially Hawai'i Island, and ease a projected severe shortage of pilots.

Please recommend approval of this bill.

Sincerely,

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