

SB 1221

Testimony

Measure Title: RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

Report Title: Appropriation; International Flight Training Center; Aeronautical Training Programs; University of Hawaii (\$)

Description: Appropriates \$350,000 to the University of Hawaii to hire a program coordinator and a technical support staff member for the proposed international flight training center and associated degree programs at the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii community college.

Companion: HB725

Package: None

Current Referral: HRE/PSM, WAM

Introducer(s): KAHELE, CHUN OAKLAND, Dela Cruz, English, Gabbard, Green, Ige, Kidani, Solomon

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

February 6, 2013

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

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

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

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

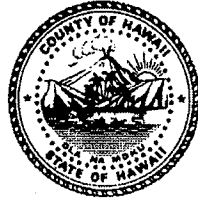
I certainly recognize the current fiscal environment, but believe this investment in jobs and education for our families is a step in securing the vitality of our State's economy. I thank you for your consideration of this bill to fund the comprehensive planning of the aviation training program.

Sincerely,



TULSI GABBARD
Member of Congress
2nd District, Hawaii

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

February 12, 2013

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on
Higher Education
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 1221, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Aloha, Chair Taniguchi, Chair Espero 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.

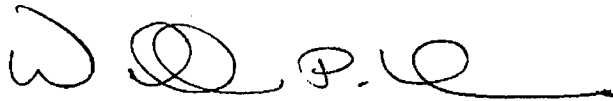
The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
Page 2
February 12, 2013

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.

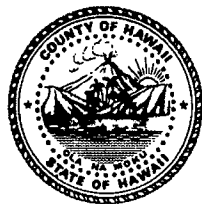
Mahalo for your consideration.

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

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 6, 2013

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Higher Education

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Dear Chair Taniguchi, Chair Espero and Joint Committee Members,

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony in 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.

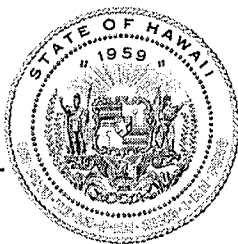
I fully support this investment in higher education as a way to support pilot training, including many from Hawai'i who would not have to leave the state to further their education. Your approval would help to boost the economy of Hawai'i, especially Hawai'i Island, and ease a projected severe shortage of pilots.

Please recommend approval of this bill.

Sincerely,

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

DO:ps



**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
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Statement of

RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEES ON
HIGHER EDUCATION
AND
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

2:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

in consideration of

SB 1221

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

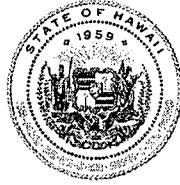
Chairs Taniguchi and Espero, Vice Chairs Kahele and Baker, and Members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism supports the intent of SB 1221 to hire appropriate staff to support an international flight training center and associated degree programs at the University 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.



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

February 12, 2013
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**SB 1221
RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION**

Senate Committee(s) on Higher Education &
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

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
A BILL RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

PRESENTATION TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 12, 2013

Chair Taniguchi, Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committees:

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

SB 1221 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
and the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs
February 12, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.
by
Donald O. Straney, Ph.D.
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB1221 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chairs Taniguchi and Espero, Vice Chairs Kahele and Baker and Members of the Committees:

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 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. Aloha.



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII*
HAWAII
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 12, 2013

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

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

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB1221 Relating to Higher Education**

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

Senate Bill 1221 presents a tremendous opportunity to begin building an aeronautical program and international flight training center in Hilo that would bring great benefits to the residents of Hawai'i.

As an ocean state, Hawai'i is dependent on aviation for transportation and business, but Hawai'i offers limited educational opportunities in aviation. That is why hundreds of students leave the state to attend aviation programs on the mainland, leading to a loss of revenue for the State of Hawai'i. A world-class aviation center and accompanying educational programs would allow Hawai'i residents to pursue their aviation careers while staying in Hawai'i, and the program would also attract students from around the world.

Under SB1221, it is proposed that Hawai'i Community College (HawCC) administer a program to train students to operate Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS). With UAS expected to become more prevalent in the civilian flight structure, such a program would put HawCC and the State of Hawai'i at the forefront of this highly technical field. A UAS program — and the proposed helicopter pilot program that would also be administered by HawCC — would also advance the University of Hawai'i's strategic goal to increase the number of degrees in science, technology, engineering and math.

By passing this bill, we can begin creating the programs that will prepare Hawai'i residents for high-paying technical and professional jobs in the aviation industry. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony, and I strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 1221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noreen Yamane'.

Noreen Yamane
Chancellor, Hawai'i Community College



University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium

Hawai'i Institute of Geophysics and Planetology

School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

1680 East-West Road POST 501, Honolulu, HI 96822

Voice: (808) 956-3138 Fax: (808) 956-6322 e-mail: hsgc@higp.hawaii.edu



Director:
Dr. Luke Flynn

Program Coordinator:
Ms. Marcia Rei Sistoso

**Future Flight Hawai'i
Program Director:**
Mr. Arthur Kimura
Program Support:
Mrs. Rene Kimura

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
Dr. G. Jeffrey Taylor
Dr. B. Ray Hawke
Dr. Edward Scott

University of Hawai'i at Hilo
Dr. Kenneth Hon

University of Hawai'i Maui College
Dr. John Pye

Hawai'i Community College
Dr. Joseph Wilcox

Honolulu Community College
Dr. Gregory Witteman

Kapi'olani Community College
Dr. John Rand

Leeward Community College
Mr. Roger Kwok

Windward Community College
Dr. Joseph Ciotti

University of Guam
Dr. Mark Lander

Industry Affiliates:
Mr. Paul Fetherland
Ms. Dora Nakafuji
Hawaiian Electric Company

Mr. Stewart Burley
Strategic Theories Unlimited LLC/
Kauai Liaison

February 8, 2013

Testimony in support of H.B. 1221

As the Director of the Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium, chartered under the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program, I write to request support of House Bill 1221. Space Grant (representing 52 consortia) operates successfully in all states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico and is committed to identifying, supporting, and preparing a skilled workforce that can serve NASA and the nation.

For over 25 years, Space Grant has been extremely successful in inspiring, recognizing, educating, and sustaining students and faculty involved in NASA and STEM-related education and research. Not only does Space Grant attract students to STEM areas, but through fellowships and other support mechanisms it provides them with a strong foundation in learning, many involving hands-on projects, that lead to career opportunities. Our central goal is to provide a wide range of activities that help develop a high-tech workforce in Hawai'i.

House Bill 1221 is essential to provide appropriate staff to coordinate the international flight training center and degree programs at UH Hilo and Hawai'i Community College. The need for a professional team will fill the management roles to stabilize a program where we lack in resources and by providing competent staff to facilitate a course in aviation within the University of Hawai'i system to ensure that our state supports students who want to pursue advanced degrees in aerospace, earth science, space science, and other science and engineering fields. This will help pave the way for the next generation of explorers and allow for an increase in our local science and engineering workforce.

House Bill 1221 can be instrumental in providing a professional team to promote a high-technology future in Hawai'i. A trained workforce is essential for future economic development, not only in the important fields of aviation and aeronautics it is aimed at, but in all technology fields. I strongly support passage of H.B. 1221. Thank you for your consideration.

Luke Flynn
Director, Hawaii Space Grant Consortium
Director, Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

Fax No. – 586-6461 and 586-6361

Re: S.B. No. 1221, Relating to Higher Education
Hearing Date – Tues, February 12, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Senate Committees on Higher Education and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

Chairs Brian Taniguchi and Will Espero and Members:

The Ironworkers Union Stabilization Fund, supports the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1221, 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. After the intensive training, the students from the mainland and the rest of the world would go back to their respective 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 our local residents would be increased.

As an army veteran who served in Germany, I proudly offer this testimony. Thank you for providing us the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,
Mel Kahele

94-497 UKEE STREET ■ WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797 ■ (808) 671-4344



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 9:21 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: troy.cullen@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: As the chair of the Makakilo/ Kapolei/ Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board I strongly support this bill. I believe this bill will provide opportunities for students all across the state to further their careers in the aviation field. Mahalo

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.

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The Honorable Senator Brian Taniguchi
Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 219

The Honorable Senator Wil Espero
Chair, Senate Committee on Public Affairs, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 1121

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 13th 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

Testimony in support of SB 1221

The establishment of an international flight training center and aeronautical training programs at the Hawaii Community College and the University of Hawaii at Hilo will benefit the State of Hawaii in many ways.

First, it will train pilots and associated airplane support personnel, filling national and international projections for worker shortages in these careers. The Governor's Aviation Exploratory Committee, and Boeing, and Airbus Corporations recognize an upcoming global pilot shortage. Hawaii's climate and beauty makes it a great locale for staffers and students engaged at these institutions. Further, the location of our State in close proximity to the growing Asian economies make it an appealing, ideal location for their students.

Second, it will add another leg to the diversifying economic base of Hawaii by providing jobs for employees involved directly in the programs, as well as, in support industries throughout the State. The benefit to the Hawaii island economy will be enormous, and, unlike other industries, will have both stability and permanence.

Third, it will provide a destination to the educations of Hawaii's students, and will serve as a validation of the renewed emphasis on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education in Hawaii. STEM-oriented industries and careers will be vital for the U.S. in future decades; indeed, it is a national priority of recent Washington lawmakers and administrations. This initiative is a solid manifestation of that trajectory. As a retired chemistry professor at Honolulu Community College I saw many of my students having to leave the State to further their educations and to find jobs. What better inducement towards encouraging students to strive hard in challenging STEM courses, than to be able to point out a career path that lies at their feet.

The Hilo International Airport is well suited to provide the physical needs for this new industry. It is underutilized, possesses a flight control tower and ground facilities, offers water training opportunities, is in close proximity to the University of Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii Community College campuses, has varied weather conditions, and is based in a supportive community.

There are only plusses for the passage of S.B. 1221.

Ronald H. Takata, Ph.D.

Professor of Chemistry (retired), Honolulu Community College

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 5:33 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: jwill@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

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.

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To: HRETestimony
Cc: dote@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Dote	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a graduate of the University of Hawaii system and strongly support SB1221 (Appropriation; International Flight Training Center; Aeronautical Training Programs; University of Hawaii)

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 06, 2013 10:10 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: kalaeone_needham@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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To: HRETestimony
Cc: vvierra@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/6/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha Committee Members. My name is Victor Vierra, a resident of Hilo. I am in full support of SB 1221 and respectfully request your serious consideration of the intent of this bill. Mahalo.

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To: HRETestimony
Cc: douglaswdyer@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/7/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Dyer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the intent of SB1221 to invest in higher education in Hawaii in general and Hilo specially. As an aviation professional in the state of Hawaii for the past 35 years I believe that a huge positive potential exists in Hilo. In my opinion the continuing investment In UHH and Hilo international Airport has a long term positive impact for East Hawaii and that far outweighs the short term monetary outlay.

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.

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To: HRETestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM*

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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From: Troy Abraham [tabraham08@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 7:03 PM
To: HRETestimony
Subject: Higher education testimony

I support any and all cases to lower higher education tuition and building up more grants and scholarships.

--

Troy Lopaka Abraham

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

February 12th 2013

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

RE: Testimony on SB 1221 Relating to Higher Education

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

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 2:06 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: villarimo@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: My name is James Lowe and I support SB1221. This funding should be deemed critical to the build up of a world class aviation training facility. I am a C-17 Evaluator Pilot for the Hawaii Air National Guard. I received my initial Aeronautical Education and BA from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, AZ. Had a campus been available within the State of Hawaii, thousands of dollars could have stayed in the state. I urge the swift passage of this bill by your committee and the Hawaii State Legislature.

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

February 12th 2013

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

RE: Kaiali'i Kahele
Testimony on SB1221 Relating to Higher Education

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.

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.

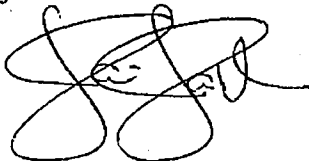
In addition, aviation-related education and training programs are a high priority for the state's innovation initiative. The proposed programs will be one of many vehicles that will improve the participation and performance of Hawaii's students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

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 SB 1221 by your joint committee.

Kaiali'i Kahele



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 11:04 AM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: chrispoponi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Poponi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Chris Poponi and I have been flying in the Hawaiian Islands since 2005. I currently work for Island Air, and the Hawaii Air National Guard flying C-17s and Dash-8's. I believe that this bill will generate a greater appreciation for aviation on the Big Island and foster new jobs in the aviation industry right here in our backyard. In my opinion, this bill would create much needed jobs there in Hilo, and give the University of Hawaii a niche market of new Aviation students there on the Big Island. I highly support this bill and encourage your request of approval. Thank you for your time.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 12:47 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: michael_namocot_ii@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Namocot II	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support the concepts of this bill. As a local pilot born and raised here in the islands, I feel it absolutely essential that we give our local aviation prospects every opportunity to excel in this every expanding and global industry. Not only does this open doors to future prospects but I see opportunity to expand our reach to additional out of state revenues: tourism, university grants/loans, and overall global interest with specifics in the pacific region. I support and will continue to support this bill with hopes for mine and fellow generations to follow.

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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

RE: Bo G. Masuyama

Testimony on SB1221 Relating to Higher Education

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.

The reason I feel so strongly about the development of a collegiate flight school program in Hilo Hawaii is because I am from Hilo and am a professional pilot. However, I had to take a completely different path in order to make it "full circle" and return to the Big Island in the profession of aviation.

As a young kid going to public school, a college degree was hard to visualize mainly due to cost. I can clearly remember in grade school being told that the profession of being a career pilot was too difficult, a "long shot", and this mindset nearly ended a dream early in my life. Ironically, I write this now as a pilot for Hawaiian Airlines and as a pilot in the Hawaii Air National Guard and also, as a returning resident to my hometown of Hilo. I never gave up, and after 22 years of working at it, my dreams have finally been realized.

This focused me on what I now can do to give our kids in Hilo a better chance to pursue this "dream" profession. I volunteered to be a member on this exploratory committee to research how to construct a flight program that will not only allow our local kids a chance to succeed working in the field of aviation but to accomplish such a goal right here in the state of Hawaii. I have many friends that paid well over \$200,000 in student loans to mainland universities that would have rather studied here in Hawaii. The other critical fact is that these same students stayed away from our state after graduation, working at some of these same institutions. These mainland schools harvested some of the nations finest pilots as evidenced by a Honokaa gentleman we ran across teaching at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. He actually was recently honored as the top instructor of the year nation wide. He could be teaching our kids right here in Hawaii if we had such a program.

The global relevance right now is the resurgence of a huge requirement for pilots in the very near future. Hawaiian Airlines recent growth spurt is miniscule in comparison to the rest of the world. Boeing reports show the largest projected growth in pilot demand being the Asia-Pacific region, with a requirement for 185,600 new pilots in the next 19 years. The timing to develop a state of the art aviation education facility in this prime location here in the center of the pacific could not be any better.

In closing, this would be a step towards giving our youth a path to a career in aviation with strong ties to Hawaii upon graduation. I can't think of a better reason to invest in providing this facility right here in Hilo, not only for today, but also for the future of many generations to come.

Thank you for opportunity to present my testimony on SB1221.

Bo G. Masuyama

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 12:54 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: jwmccully54@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Aloha Chair Taniguchi, I am in strong support of this bill, which seeks to provide a foundation for a flight training center here in Hilo. We have a underused airfield with significant open space surrounding it for future improvements. We also have a university system that could provide the faculty and program support required. This is significant for the future of Hilo, please support SB121. Mahalo, Jim McCully

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Fax No. – 586-6461 and 586-6361

Re: S.B. No. 1221, Relating to Higher Education
Hearing Date – Tues, February 12, 2013, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Senate Committees on Higher Education and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and
Military Affairs

Chairs Brian Taniguchi and Will Espero and Members:

As a pre-Viet Nam war army officer, it is with honor and pleasure that I lend my support to S.B. 1221, Relating to Higher Education.

Sitting in the Pacific between the continental United States and Asia, we in Hawaii are perfectly situated to operate an international flight training center. As America pivots from Europe and the Middle East towards Asia, it becomes necessary for our country to be ever vigilant to counter hot spots that will inevitably occur in the Asian theater. By helping train helicopter pilots and unmanned aircraft systems pilots, the State of Hawaii will be doing our share in protecting America and its people.

I have spoken to several pilots and helicopter pilots who served in Viet Nam, and they became excited when they heard of this international flight training center that will be established in Hilo. They related that they would like to offer their suggestions down the road when plans solidify.

The unmanned aircraft systems pilot training would be most timely for our soldiers, marines and airmen who have so tragically lost their lower limbs as a result of the Middle East wars. It should go without saying that these brave veterans would continue to serve their country with honor and become proficient drone pilots.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Ron Amemiya
(808)226-7055

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 2:42 PM
To: HRETestimony
Cc: abasioa@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1221 on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM

SB1221

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

Testimony for HRE/PSM on Feb 12, 2013 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alfred Basioa	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support SB1221. The proposed aviation program will provide a highly educated, highly skilled economy and workforce. The State of Hawaii will invest in the future generations and prepare them for the increasingly competitive global area. Please consider this important measure for all of Hawaii.

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