
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS TEST SITES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a national
2 need to safely integrate unmanned aerial systems into the
3 national air space. The integration of unmanned aerial systems
4 flights into the national air space will generate commercial
5 potential of this technology, estimated to be worth more than
6 \$13,600,000,000 during the first three years of integration and
7 more than \$82,000,000,000 between 2015 and 2025, and create
8 approximately 103,776 new jobs by 2025.

9 The legislature further finds that Hawaii offers many
10 unique qualities to support unmanned aerial systems operations
11 including: expansive over-water areas unencumbered by other
12 aviation uses; proximity to the United States Pacific Command,
13 which is projected to be a significant user of future unmanned
14 aerial systems; opportunities for joint operations with Kauai's
15 Pacific missile range facility; and opportunities for long range
16 point-to-point tests with partner ranges in Alaska and Oregon.
17 Hawaii's proposed test ranges link to military and restricted
18 areas used for current unmanned aerial systems operations.



1 These sites include the Pohakuloa training area on the island of
2 Hawaii, Oahu's Bradshaw and Wheeler Army Airfields, and Kauai's
3 Pacific missile range facility. Test points within the ranges
4 will be used to support shore and ship-based development,
5 testing and certification of new unmanned aerial systems,
6 training and crew certification of operational unmanned aerial
7 systems, and development of expanded and joint capabilities
8 involving existing communications systems and operations tactics
9 using unmanned aerial systems. The proposed Hawaii ranges have
10 provided an important focus for the development of scientific
11 applications of unmanned aerial systems, including numerous test
12 flights.

13 The legislature additionally finds existing and potential
14 civilian uses of unmanned aerial systems are wide ranging,
15 including emergency search and rescue operations, wildfire
16 detection and management, fisheries management, agricultural
17 monitoring, reef health surveys, hazardous spills monitoring,
18 dam and reservoir overflow detection, tsunami damage surveys and
19 assessment, algal bloom detection and mapping, air quality
20 monitoring, motor vehicle traffic management, lava flow
21 monitoring, aerial photography for mapping, disaster management
22 and damage assessment, power line monitoring, flood and



1 pollution control, land use surveys, watershed management,
2 wildlife tracking, geographical, geological, and archaeological
3 surveys, atmospheric monitoring for commercial airline
4 turbulence avoidance, and light detection and ranging mapping of
5 coastal topography to detect beach erosion. In developing these
6 applications, innovative research, business, and education
7 opportunities will emerge, including the development of
8 miniaturized, high performance remote sensing instruments;
9 unmanned aerial systems tracking systems, including command and
10 control hardware and software; training courses and
11 certification programs for unmanned aerial systems operators;
12 and education programs for potential users of unmanned aerial
13 systems technologies.

14 The legislature also finds that in 2012, the United States
15 Congress directed the Federal Aviation Administration to
16 establish unmanned aerial systems research programs at six
17 national test sites for the development of unmanned aerial
18 systems operating standards and regulations. Hawaii, in
19 partnership with Alaska and Oregon, submitted a tri-state
20 proposal to establish the Pan-Pacific Unmanned Aerial Systems
21 Test Range Complex and was designated by the Federal Aviation
22 Administration as one of the six national test site operators,



1 providing the tri-state team six months to organize and
2 implement the Pan-Pacific Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Range
3 Complex. The University of Alaska has established a board of
4 directors to support performance of the management team and is
5 establishing a Pan-Pacific Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Range
6 Complex management team, to include a chief operating officer
7 from all three states.

8 The purpose of this Act is to establish a Hawaii unmanned
9 aerial systems test site chief operating officer to serve on the
10 Pan-Pacific Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Range Complex
11 management team, establish a Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test
12 site advisory board that will formulate an implementation plan
13 and oversee test site development in the State, and appropriate
14 funds for personnel and procurement costs associated with
15 establishing the Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site.

16 SECTION 2. Chapter 201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately
18 designated and to read as follows:

19 "§201- Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site advisory
20 board; established. (a) There is established a Hawaii unmanned
21 aerial systems test site advisory board, as a subcommittee of



1 the Hawaii aerospace advisory committee, to oversee the planning
2 and operation of the Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site.

3 (b) The board shall be appointed by the members of the
4 Hawaii aerospace advisory committee and be composed of five
5 members representing the following:

6 (1) The department of defense;

7 (2) The department of transportation;

8 (3) The department of business, economic development, and
9 tourism;

10 (4) The University of Hawaii; and

11 (5) The Hawaii business community.

12 Each board member shall serve for a term of four years;
13 provided that the initial terms shall be staggered, as
14 determined by the Hawaii aerospace advisory committee.

15 (c) Members of the board shall not receive compensation
16 for their services but shall be reimbursed for necessary
17 expenses, including travel expenses, incurred in the performance
18 of their duties under this section."

19 SECTION 3. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
21 and to read as follows:



1 "§304A- Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site chief
2 operating officer. There is established in the University of
3 Hawaii college of engineering, without regard to chapter 76, the
4 position of chief operating officer who shall manage operations
5 of Hawaii's unmanned aerial systems test sites. The chief
6 operating officer shall:

- 7 (1) Oversee, supervise, and direct operations of unmanned
8 aerial systems test site activities;
- 9 (2) Facilitate opportunities for public and private use of
10 unmanned aerial systems test site facilities;
- 11 (3) Assist the University of Hawaii, research
12 institutions, local companies, and other interested
13 organizations in formalizing agreements to operate at
14 Hawaii's unmanned aerial systems test ranges;
- 15 (4) Leverage aerospace and related technological
16 capabilities in the State's academic, public, and
17 private sectors to support testing and evaluation at
18 Hawaii's unmanned aerial systems test ranges;
- 19 (5) Promote innovative education and workforce development
20 programs to enhance public awareness of the benefits
21 and opportunities that unmanned aerial systems
22 technologies and applications can bring to the State;



- 1 (6) Monitor national and global trends in unmanned aerial
2 systems development and testing, and recommend
3 policies and programs to advance unmanned aerial
4 systems testing in Hawaii;
- 5 (7) Establish and maintain a public website with updated
6 information on the program and provide information on
7 Hawaii's unmanned aerial systems test site initiative;
- 8 (8) Contract for services and implement agreements as may
9 be necessary to conduct operations at Hawaii's
10 unmanned aerial systems test ranges;
- 11 (9) Serve as Hawaii's representative on the Pan-Pacific
12 Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Range Complex management
13 team; and
- 14 (10) Participate as an ex officio member of and report to
15 the Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site advisory
16 board.

17 The chief operating officer may employ on a full-time
18 basis, without regard to chapter 76, one administrative
19 assistant for Hawaii's unmanned aerial systems test site
20 operations and activities."

21 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
22 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the
2 purpose of staffing and operating Hawaii's unmanned aerial
3 systems test site activities.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Public Safety; Unmanned Aerial Systems; Test Site; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the Hawaii unmanned aerial systems test site chief operating officer position to, among other things, serve on the Pan-Pacific Unmanned Aerial Systems Test Range Complex management team. Establishes an advisory board to oversee and manage unmanned aerial systems test site operations.

Appropriates the funds to staff and operate Hawaii's unmanned aerial systems test site activities. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

