

# LATE TESTIMONY

To: Members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Hawaii State Legislature  
Re: Testimony in support of SB3053

Dear Sirs,

In FY 2012 the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) notified Hawaii and other states of an initiative to regulate the testing and integration of unmanned aerial systems otherwise known as UAS or UAVs into the civilian National Airspace (NAS). To ensure a smooth testing plan and proper FAA oversight, only six US test sites were to be designated for this purpose.

As part of a team, the Hawaii Office of Aerospace Development, with support from the Hawaii Legislature and in collaboration with the States of Alaska and Oregon, delivered a formal response to the FAA requesting our "tri-state" team be considered. After fairly lengthy deliberations, the FAA selected the Alaska/Hawaii/Oregon team as a winning proposal.

Hawaii's selection was based on positive safety and privacy criteria including good weather, large uninhabited areas over open water and the close proximity of civilian, oceanic and restricted airspaces. Practical reasons were also considered, including Hawaii's need for good data in the areas of maritime, aviation, environment, marine life, volcanic ash, climate, tsunami and weather research.

## **WHAT DOES THE STATE DO NOW?**

Since Hawaii has already made a commitment to do so, it seems we must now develop:

- A complete business plan
- A budget strategy for startup
- A UAS test site website
- A local, federal, civilian and state agency coordination workgroup
- An FAA/ATC coordination workgroup
- A privacy & environmental concern workgroup
- A media and public relations methodology
- A marketing plan for prospective UAS vendors and site users
- An outreach plan to prospective out of state academia and research entities
- A plan to provision, setup and provide oversight of the test site facilities
- A self supporting fees path to support ongoing operations

## **HOW CAN WE HELP?**

Hawaiian Airlines and the State of Hawaii have similar interests in the discussion of UAS proliferation. The safety of our passengers and the stability of the aviation and tourism communities here in Hawaii is of course very important to us. The US government will make UAS decisions with or without Hawaii's participation. Being in the conversation rather than not, is probably in the better interest of the state so it should be supported.

**Respectfully,**

Mark Spence

Member of the Hawaii Aerospace Advisory Committee