



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
GOVERNOR

**RICHARD C. LIM**  
DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Thursday, February 20, 2014

9:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

**SB 3092, 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 3092, SD1, to enable a program coordinator and technical staff to complete the planning required for an international flight training center and associated aeronautical training 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 the Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this legislation.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3092 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 20, 2014

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

I am Major General Darryll D. M. Wong, State Adjutant General. I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 3092 SD1.

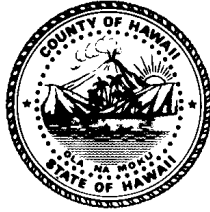
The development of a state-of-art college level aviation training program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo continues. This aviation training program will include aircraft maintenance, pilot training, simulation and air space integration. It will provide a workforce trained for high priority science and technology careers and will assist the diversification of Hawaii's economy. The aviation program provides for a long overdue avenue for our Hawaii youth in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas.

The requested funding will allow the program coordinator and the technical support member to continue their work to allow this aviation training program to begin in the fall of 2016.

I strongly urge you to pass Senate Bill 3092 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**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  
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February 20, 2014

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

Re: Senate Bill 3092, SD 1 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Aloha, Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Mahalo for this opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 3092, SD 1, which appropriates funds for a program coordinator and technical support staff member to complete the necessary planning required for an international flight training center and associated aeronautical training programs at the University of Hawai'i and Hawai'i Community College.

Ray Bedard, one of the top aviation program experts in the country was hired by the University and moved to Hilo in the fall of 2013 to begin working full time on the program. By December 2013, the blueprint for three aviation programs and the draft authorization plan for all three programs were completed. This 2014 legislation will provide continued funding to complete the planning needed to build an international flight training center and associated aeronautical training programs.

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,

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
Page 2  
February 20, 2014

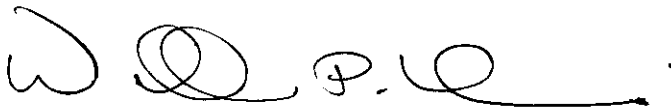
and Hilo offers an affordable and welcoming environment for students who will be attracted to the aviation program.

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.

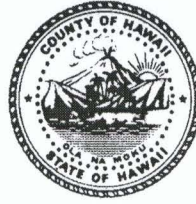
Mahalo for your consideration.

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



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**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**  
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720



February 19, 2014

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

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 3092.

This international flight training center will stimulate economic development for Hawai'i Island and the State, and it will create a skilled workforce that will be able to train and live in Hawai'i. Further, with the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Hawai'i Community College close to the airport, the infrastructure is in place for a flight school and its associated aeronautical programs.

This bill will build on the \$100,000 appropriated in fiscal year 2013-2014 for a program coordinator and support staff as provided in Act 272 (SLH 2013). Senate Bill 3092 continues the planning process in advance of the launch of these programs starting in fall term 2015.

Please recommend approval of the \$450,000 appropriation for a program coordinator and support staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Onishi".

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi  
Hawai'i County Council Member

William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



Laverne R. Omori  
Director

Donn S. Mende  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawai`i

### DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

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February 18, 2014

The Honorable David Y. Ige  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for SB 3092, SD1 before the Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chairperson David Ige and members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

On behalf of the County of Hawai`i Department of Research and Development, we strongly supports SB 3092 (SD1). This bill will enable the Program Coordinator and Technical Staff to complete the required planning and development of an International Flight Training Center and associated Aeronautical Training programs at the University of Hawai`i at Hilo and Hawai`i Community College.

There are many indications that a global pilot shortage is imminent; with a projected 192,000 new pilots needed in the Asia-Pacific region alone within a few years. Hilo's location in the middle of the Pacific with low air traffic activity, favorable meteorological conditions year round, available land area at Hilo International Airport, and excellent controller and radar facilities, make it the ideal location for a flight training center in Hawai`i.

The Flight Training Center and associated Aeronautical Training program will add to Hawai`i Island's emerging innovation economy and catalyze student interest in the pursuit of science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. It will also promote the diversification of the economy and the local aviation industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this important project. I hope the Hawai`i State Legislature will continue to support the aviation center.

Respectfully yours,

LAVERNE R. OMORI  
Director

February 20th 2014

The Honorable Chairman David Ige  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Conference Room 211, Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI, 96813

RE: Kaiali'i Kahele  
Testimony on SB 3092 Relating to Higher Education

Dear Chairman Ige & Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 3092.

I support Senate Bill 3092 and strongly urge its passage by the Hawai'i State Legislature. The goal of Senate Bill 3092 is to continue the work to develop a state-of-the-art collegiate-level aviation training program which includes aircraft & rotary pilot training, simulation and airspace integration. The proposed programs 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.

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 Senate Bill 3092 by your committee.

Kaiali'i Kahele  
Resident, Hilo, Hawai'i

**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 SB3092 on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 11:08:55 AM

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**SB3092**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kalaeone Needham	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am currently in the United States Air Force and am out of state. This is a great opportunity for the local economy, and aviation enthusiasts. This opportunity will allow the people of Hawaii to stay local and not branch out of state to obtain this type of training and schooling as they currently do and have been doing for many years. This will also allow another great opportunity to entice out of state aviation enthusiasts to the Island for schooling and training. Having been involved with Aviation for over 15 years myself, I wholeheartedly support this!

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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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [steven.j.santiago@hawaii.gov](mailto:steven.j.santiago@hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB3092 on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 8:12:56 AM

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**SB3092**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hilo is an ideal location for the Aviation Training Program with the University, Community Collage and Airport within a short distance of each other. The airport facilities, weather and limited population is also ideal for instrument training This program has the potential to fill the need for aviators at the local and national level and also generate needed revenue for Hilo.

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**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 SB3092 on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:51:40 AM

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**SB3092**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bo Masuyama	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I strongly support SB 3092 to establish a flight degree program in Hilo!

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