

SB 3092

Testimony

- Measure Title:** RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION.
- Report Title:** University of Hawaii at Hilo; Hawaii Community College; Aeronautical Training Program; International Flight Training Center; Appropriation (\$)
- Description:** 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 Hawaii at Hilo and Hawaii community college.
- Companion:** [HB1967](#)
- Package:** None
- Current Referral:** HRE, WAM
- Introducer(s):** KAHELE, CHUN OAKLAND, GABBARD, GALUTERIA, GREEN, KIDANI, NISHIHARA, SOLOMON, WAKAI, Baker, Dela Cruz, Hee, Ihara, Keith-Agaran, Shimabukuro, Slom, Tokuda

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 3092
A BILL RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

BY

MAJOR GENERAL DARRYLL D. M. WONG
ADJUTANT GENERAL
February 6, 2014

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education.

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

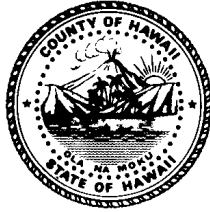
The development of a state-of-art college level aviation training program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo continues. This aviation training program will include aircraft maintenance, pilot training, simulation and air space integration. It will provide a workforce trained for high priority science 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 SB 3092.

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

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February 6, 2014

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 414
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 3092, RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Aloha, Chair Choy and Committee Members:

Mahalo for this opportunity to express our support for Senate Bill 3092, 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 Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair

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February 6, 2014

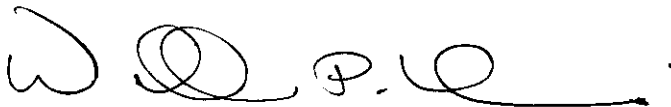
and Hilo offers an affordable and welcoming environment for students who will be attracted to the aviation program.

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.

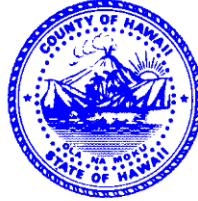
Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. P. Kenoi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 4, 2014

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

Dear Senator Taniguchi 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,

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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January 29, 2014

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi
Chair, Senate Committee on Higher Education
State Capitol, Conference Room 414
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Support for SB 3092 before the Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chairperson Taniguchi and members of the Committee on Higher Education:

On behalf of the County of Hawai`i Department of Research and Development, we strongly supports SB 3092. 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,

Handwritten signature of Laverne R. Omori in cursive.

LAVERNE R. OMORI
Director



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2014 at 2:45 p.m.

by
Donald O. Straney
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 3092 – RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION

Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Kahele and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. We support SB 3092 that 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 at Hilo and Hawai'i Community College.

Following the approval of SB 1221 in 2013, we engaged a program coordinator to complete the necessary studies and planning for the programs' implementation.

Based on his research, he wrote two Authorization to Plan (ATP) documents to support the implementation of SB 1221. These ATP are in the final process of revision before being forwarded to the University of Hawai'i Council of Chief Academic Officers. (CCAO)

This program will 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. This program will also attract foreign students and provide a positive economic impact on the State of Hawai'i and the University of Hawai'i University system

We support SB 3092 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 3092. Aloha.



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII*
HAWAII
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 5, 2014

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

RE: Testimony in Support of SB3092 Relating to Higher Education

Dear Chairman Taniguchi and members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 3092 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 SB 3092, 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 to create 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 3092.

Sincerely,

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

Noreen Yamane
Chancellor, Hawai'i Community College



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII
HAWAII
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

February 4, 2014

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

Re: **Testimony in Support of SB3092 Relating to Higher Education**

Dear Chairman Taniguchi:

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 3092 before the Committee on Higher Education.

The proposed aviation training program in Hilo represents a great opportunity to enhance Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education in Hawai'i, and particularly on Hawai'i Island. Currently opportunities for flight training in the State are limited and many students are seeking this education on the mainland, once again, leading to the "brain drain" Hawai'i is unfortunately known for.

Bill 3092 proposes that Hawai'i Community College develop programs to train students as Helicopter Pilots and to operate Unmanned Aviation Systems (UAS). Both of these programs would have numerous benefits to the Big Island's people. They would create educational opportunities and pathways in professional STEM programs, put Hawai'i at the forefront of the rapidly growing and highly technical UAS field, and create opportunities for high paying jobs in the aviation industry.

I strongly support and urge you to pass Bill 3092.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joyce Hamasaki".

Joyce Hamasaki, Interim Dean, CTE
Hawai'i Community College

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

Testimony in support of Senate Bill 3092

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 25, 2014, the 14th annual Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Science Day hosted its largest attendance of students, parents and teachers (600 along with 200 volunteers). Keynote speaker, Astronaut Rex Walheim spoke of his journey to become an astronaut and eventually fly into space, including being a crew member of the last flight of the space shuttle, Atlantis. He spoke of his admiration for Ellison, following in Ellison's footsteps by attending test pilot school and, and the special award given to test pilots in Ellison's honor. 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.

I recently met with Christopher Parayno, a Hilo High School graduate, who received an Aeronautical Engineering Degree from Embrey-Riddle Aeronautical University. He has been employed by the Boeing Company in Seattle in research and development, and just recently moved back to Hawaii to care for his parents and to raise his family in Hawaii. He is pursuing employment interests in Hawaii and is an example of our wanting our Hawaii talent to come home through programs such as the flight training center.

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

February 6th 2014

The Honorable Chairman Brian Taniguchi
Chairman, Senate Committee on Higher Education
Conference Room 414, 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 Taniguchi & Members of the Committee on Higher Education,

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
To: [HRETestimony](#)
Cc: racer230@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3092 on Feb 6, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:39:29 AM

SB3092

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HRE on Feb 6, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I strongly support this bill to continue research and development in establishing an aviation degree program in Hilo.

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
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Cc: vvierra@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3092 on Feb 6, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 03, 2014 10:17:04 AM

SB3092

Submitted on: 2/3/2014

Testimony for HRE on Feb 6, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Your support of this measure would be greatly appreciated.

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: leekahele@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3092 on Feb 6, 2014 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 10:23:30 AM

SB3092

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for HRE on Feb 6, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leighton Kahele	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the Aviation Circulum to be established by UHH and HCC. It will be good for Hilo and the state of Hawaii, a chance for our students who want to make a career in the aviation industry. Thank you.

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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