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Statement of

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, February 26, 2016
11:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of

HB 2263, HD1
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent to conduct an economic assessment study on the development and viability of a small satellite processing and launch facility on the island of Hawaii.

Recent advances in the miniaturization of satellite components, standardization of many satellite parts, and related factors have made the building, launch, and operation of small satellites (“smallsats”) technologically feasible and increasingly economical, which in turn is fueling a broad range of innovative applications utilizing smallsats related to space science, in-orbit technology testing and demonstration, and earth observation.

As noted in this legislation, Hawaii’s unique mid-Pacific, near-equatorial location provides a cost-effective site from which to launch payloads into orbit. The proposed economic assessment study would provide an analysis of the opportunities this industry holds for Hawaii, as well as a roadmap for leveraging Hawaii’s competitive advantages in commercial space launch.

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 measure.