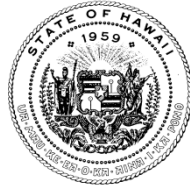


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 26, 2016
9:35 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

S.B. 3073, S.D. 1
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of this bill.

Establishing a school of aviation at the University of Hawaii at Hilo will support degree programs in aeronautics and provide opportunities for Hawaii's youth to pursue professional aviation careers within the state, as well as attract students from other states. Aviation is essential to Hawaii's economy, and this program will strengthen our community's aviation capabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 26, 2016 at 9:35 a.m.

by
Don Straney, Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 3073 SD1 - RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and I am presenting the University's testimony in support of SB3073 SD1. This bill will help advance the development of a degree program of aeronautical science.

For the past two years, I have been working with the late Senator Gilbert Kahele to establish an aeronautical science program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Together we have had to work through a number of issues in trying to develop plans for the program to be successful and financially sustainable. Beginning with a comprehensive study of opportunities and options, we have developed a four year curriculum for the degree program. We are in the final stages of identifying a provider of flight instruction and securing facilities at the Hilo airport to house the program.

Aeronautical science programs are expensive for students because of the number of flight hours required. These programs are complex for a campus due to the need to contract with a third party to provide both the flight instruction and the aircraft and simulators required. We continue to develop our recruiting strategy and the business plan for the program.

The University appreciates the financial support provided by this bill. This measure will help alleviate the significant funding component to make the program sustainable and more affordable to potential students. UH-Hilo will also be pursuing approval from the UH Board of Regents in order to establish a new degree, and legislative appropriation specific to the program will help ensure financial sustainability. Board of Regents' approval for the program is required before we can recruit students.

The University requests that SB3073 SD1 be amended so that its funding appropriation is spent over multiple years, rather than via a single year appropriation in FY2016-17. Section 2 of SB3073 specifies that funds be "appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for implementation costs, including salaries and facilities, of establishing a school of aviation at the University of Hawaii at Hilo."

In order to establish the aeronautical science program, it would be optimal to provide \$250,000 in the inaugural year to establish the program (FY2016-17), but the University would request annual funding be added to the UH-Hilo base in the budget. UH will work with the Legislature to ensure the funding can be appropriated into the base budget at UOH210 – University of Hawai'i Hilo.

We seek the ability to attract outstanding aeronautical science educators to provide their knowledge and experience in the program building process. A recurring yearly allotment of \$250,000 in appropriated aeronautical science faculty positions is the single best way to ensure Senator Kahele's vision is realized. UH Hilo shares the Senator's vision of a "world-class aviation training program" established in Hilo to provide opportunities for the youth of our community and beyond.

The University supports the intent of this bill to work towards achieving Senator Kahele's dream that our keiki can earn an aeronautical science degree in the state and enter careers in aviation.



TESTIMONY OF HAWAIIAN AIRLINES ON
SB 3073 SD1 Relating to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

DATE: Friday, February 26, 2016

TIME: 9:35 am

PLACE: State Capitol, Room 211

Aloha Chair Sen. Tokuda, Vice-Chair Sen. Dela Cruz and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 3073 SD1, relating to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, which establishes a school of aviation at the University's Hawai'i Island campus.

As a growing aviation company, we know first-hand the importance of supporting high-quality educational programs for aspiring pilots here in our Islands. A program that teaches and trains our own young people to take on good careers in their hometown would be of benefit to our community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify and mahalo for your consideration.

Ann Botticelli
SVP Corporate Communications and Public Affairs
Hawaiian Airlines

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of a 4 year aviation program located at the University of Hawaii-Hilo. As the mother of twins (boy/girl), who each want to become commercial pilots, and who are set to graduate in June of 2017, this bill hits home. The only 4 year options we are exploring now are out of state, specifically Embry Riddle University in Arizona or the University of North Dakota. To have a much needed 4 year program here in Hawaii would be beneficial to many high school graduates.

My son attended an aviation camp at Embry Riddle last summer and the staff there stated that there were a significant number of students attending there from the state of Hawaii. On our island of Kaua'i, there are several high school student Civil Air Patrol cadets interested in aviation. I believe there will definitely be a student base for a full time four year program where the students reside on campus, not just a commuter school.

Getting to and from the airport hangar easily from campus without traffic congestion is also another positive reason for having the program located in Hilo. I am hoping that the flight training will also take place in weather that is ideal as well as not so ideal as that is what they will need to do in real world flying experiences; I'm thinking it's best to get this training in all types of weather flying while still in school.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please support this bill that will establish a 4 year aviation program at the University of Hawaii-Hilo.

Sincerely,

Marie Bailey