

February 9th 2016

LATE

The Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi  
Senate Committee on Higher Education & the Arts  
Conference Room 224, Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI, 96813

RE: Kaiali'i Kahele  
Testimony on SB3073 Relating to Higher Education

Dear Chair Taniguchi & Members of the Senate Committee on Higher Education & the Arts

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony in support of Senate Bill 3073.

I support Senate Bill 3073 and strongly urge its passage by the Hawai'i State Legislature. The goal of Senate Bill 3073 is to continue the work to develop a state-of-the-art collegiate-level aviation training program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo by allocating \$500,000 to the initial start up of the program. The proposed program 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 3073 by your committee.

Kaiali'i Kahele  
Hilo

## Testimony

on [SB3073](#)

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO.

UH Hilo; School of Aeronautical Science

My name is Phillip Buck Olsen. I am a career educator and aviator, as well as former director of Peace Corps training for the University of Hawaii, with administrative experience in Peace Corps Washington where I administered numerous training contracts for programs at Hilo, Molokai, Kauai, and Oahu. I have spent many pleasant and productive years working with colleagues and friends in Hilo and elsewhere on the Big Island.

I am a retired associate dean of the College of Arts & Sciences During a time when it was one large college at Manoa. I am also a retired USAF pilot, an FAA-designated Wright Brothers Master Pilot, a flight instructor, an FAA-designated check airman, and a retired corporate pilot.

I wish I could whole-heartedly and without reservations endorse Senate Bill 3072 for the establishment of an aeronautical science program leading to a bachelor of science at the U.H. Hilo Campus but my experience, both at Hilo and Manoa, lead me to caution those who are eager to do so.

The failure of a clearly essential, already operational inter-island ferry system in an insular state in the remote reaches of the north Pacific, which boasts of its ocean skills and clearly requires a ferry service, gives me pause, as it should to those of us so eager to see aeronautical education and training flourish in our state. Additionally, the delays imposed upon Mauna Kea's Thirty Meter Telescope that would make Hawaii a world leader in astronomical exploration of our universe are cautionary lessons from which legislators and well-meaning public figures must take heed.

A two-year flight training program at Honolulu Community College leading to an associate degree and flight ratings up to and including, single- and multi-engine pilot, instrument, and flight instructor accreditations recently was closed at

Kalaeloa (Barbers Point) after more than a decade of operation, in the face of extraordinary demands from commercial aviation activities for more pilots.

Before rushing into a very costly, Hilo-based aeronautical sciences program, I urge the leadership of the Hawaii Legislature to convene hearings to include interested and knowledgeable professionals regarding concerns about the program design and location that are certain to arise in this ambitious proposal.

Very truly yours,



Phillip Buck Olsen, Capt. USAF (Ret)  
College of Arts & Sciences Associate Dean (Ret)  
Air Transport Pilot 1299872; Single- and Multi-Engine Land; BAE--125; CE-500;  
FA-119C; HS-125; Commercial SES