



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

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Statement of

**LUIS P. SALAVERIA**  
**Director**

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM, AND TECHNOLOGY**

Thursday, April 13, 2017

2:15 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

in consideration of

**HCR 143**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL  
AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK.**

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism respectfully offers **comments with concerns** regarding this resolution.

The vision to develop an aerospace and technology park in Hawaii to support aviation maintenance and training, the design and manufacture of aircraft systems, and both aviation and aerospace related research could build upon Hawaii's strategic mid-Pacific near-equatorial location, existing aviation infrastructure, and resident expertise in related fields, potentially generating new commercial and educational opportunities for our State.

However, formulation of a detailed strategic master plan to help guide the development and implementation of the proposed park will require both funding and dedicated staff support, as well as adequate time for completion.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



Written Statement of  
**Robbie Melton**  
Executive Director & CEO  
High Technology Development Corporation  
before the  
**Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology**  
Thursday, April 13, 2017  
2:15 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of  
**HCR 143**  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE  
AND TECHNOLOGY PARK.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi, and Members of the Committee on Economic  
Development, Tourism, and Technology.

The High Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) **supports the intent** and offers  
**comments** on HCR 143 that requests DBEDT to develop a master plan for the Hilo International  
Aerospace and Technology Park.

As part of HTDC's vision to create 80,000 new innovation jobs in Hawaii earning \$80,000 or  
more by 2030, HTDC supports initiatives aimed at promoting technology and innovation jobs.  
HTDC is currently conducting a feasibility study for the multipurpose processing facility in Hilo in  
partnership with University of Hawaii at Hilo and the State Department of Labor and Industrial  
Relations. The results of the study will offer some insights that can contribute to the plan.

HTDC defers to DBEDT on the implementation of this resolution. As an attached agency  
that frequently supports DBEDT special projects, HTDC comments that we are available to support  
economic development working group discussions, however, without additional staff or budget, we  
do not have the resources to lead the planning activities.

HTDC comments that with all tech parks, a working group of all stakeholders is required  
and would be the first step before DBEDT could develop a master plan. Stakeholders who would  
benefit from an aerospace tech park should be identified to come up with a vision for the activities.  
A study should be conducted by a third party to develop a business plan, identify the appropriate  
activities, and identify who would be the responsible entity for managing such a tech park.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology  
April 13, 2017 at 2:15 a.m.

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

**HCR143 - REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM TO DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE HILO INTERNATIONAL AEROSPACE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for HCR143. My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). I am testifying as a member of the Hawai'i Island community and I support the intent of HCR143 to develop a master plan for the Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park.

The University of Hawai'i at Hilo is positioned to offer aeronautical science education to a primarily in-state resident market. Pending administrative approval, the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Science degree program will produce locally grown pilots to help address the looming worldwide pilot shortage. Training a pilot workforce in-state promotes the self-sufficiency of Hawai'i and increases its resiliency to shifting employment markets.

With its wide-open spaces, diverse environment and uncongested airspace, the Big Island of Hawai'i is an ideal staging ground for aerospace training and research. A Hilo International Aerospace and Technology Park would take advantage of an economic region well-suited to student residency and visiting researchers. The astronomy industry is a working example of international engagement and participation on Hawai'i island.

I urge the Committee on Economic Development & Business to approve this resolution for the future of our state and to ensure a bright future for our keiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HCR143. Aloha.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 12, 2017 9:40 AM  
**To:** ETT Testimony  
**Cc:** micahalameda@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR143 on Apr 13, 2017 14:15PM\*

**HCR143**

Submitted on: 4/12/2017

Testimony for ETT on Apr 13, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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