



**Hawaii Island Economic
Development Board**

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RE: SB1247- RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Dear Members of the 29th Hawaii State Legislature:

A primary concern of businesses and residents of Hawaii island is an economy that creates too few jobs for our young men and women – and too few of those being of a nature to support more than a basic living standard here (on the least expensive island to live on). The situation is deteriorating with our major industries: agriculture, tourism and government showing either very slow growth or even for most - decline. If we do not pull in new industry sectors that are expanding, the situation will worsen at an increasing pace.

The small satellite industry provides this island and this state and excellent opportunity to increase our base. This industry is experiencing rapid growth. The demand for small vehicles to launch them as well as locations from which to launch is increasing rapidly. Our technological world requires a steadily growing number of satellites to provide GPS, cell phone and other modern conveniences. As the size of satellites decreases to units often no bigger than microwave ovens, the demand for new and replacement units is growing rapidly.

The Island of Hawaii has unique characteristics that give us an advantage over many other locations: we are near the equator in a politically stable environment with the possibility of launches to the east over the ocean. A number of organizations have already approached the State looking for locations for such launches. It is important to note that this industry is clean, technologically strong and (as noted) growing. Further, many of the electronics and even the small engines for these launches will be built close to the launch site using 3D printers and such equipment – so that those who launch may also build in that location. We have the opportunity to see a critical mass of such organizations come to the Island to support the industry. Alaska Aerospace, a public-private organization of the State of Alaska is so convinced that our sites are exceptional that it has committed to spending \$250,000 itself IF the State of Hawaii will match those funds.

The economy of the state is highly dependent on a handful of industries, opportunities like this, which could have a strong benefit for the local economy do not come often. It is critical for the state's economy that this opportunity is not missed. Please vote for our future by supporting this bill.

Mahalo for allowing us to speak on behalf of this important initiative.

Sincerely,