



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 13, 2018 at 2:10 p.m.

By
Marcia Sakai
Interim Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2324 HD1 - RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR
EXPLORATION SYSTEMS

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 2324, HD1. This bill, among other things, adds the Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo to the Board of Directors to the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The University supports and appreciates the inclusion of UH in Section 2 of the bill which includes the UH Hilo Chancellor as part of the Board of Directors which would provide the island of Hawai'i's higher educational perspective on the board.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

AMENDED

Statement of
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
2:10 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309
In consideration of
HB2324, HD1
**RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR
EXPLORATION SYSTEMS.**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** HB2324, HD1, an Administration bill, relating to the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES).

Section 201-76, HRS, transferred PISCES from the University of Hawaii to be administratively attached to the Office of Aerospace Development, an office under DBEDT, a principal department of the State of Hawaii. Since Section 26-35(a), HRS, states that the administrative supervision of any board or commission should be established or placed within a principal department for administrative purposes, PISCES should be administratively attached to DBEDT. HB2324, HD1 addresses and corrects this technical flaw within Section 201-76, HRS, and expressly places PISCES within DBEDT.

HB2324, HD1 also makes needed changes to the membership of the PISCES Board of Directors as defined in Section 201-77(a), HRS, which designates the executive director of PISCES as an ex officio Board Member. Since the executive director of the space center is hired by the PISCES Board, which also sets the salary and duties of the executive director, there is a built-in conflict of interest. HB2324, HD1 deletes the executive director as an ex officio Board member and adds the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo or his/her designee, which would provide the island of Hawaii academia's perspective to the Board since the program resides on the island of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

**PISCES BOARD OF
DIRECTORS**

Henk Rogers, Chair
Senate Nominee
Term: 2014 – 2018

Vacant
Ex-Officio, Executive Director,
PISCES
Term: 2013 –

Kim Binsted
Senate Nominee
Term: 2016 – 2020

Luke Flynn
Governor Nominee
Term: 2016 – 2019

Galen Ho
Governor Nominee
Term: 2013 – holdover

David Lassner
Ex-Officio, President of the
University of Hawai'i
Designated Alternate,
Donald Straney
Vice President for Academic
Planning and Policy,
University of Hawaii System
Term: 2013 –

Luis Salaveria
Ex-Officio, Director, DBEDT
Designated Alternate
Mary Alice Evans
Deputy Director, DBEDT
Term: 2015 – 2018

Patrick Sullivan
House Nominee
Term: 2014 – 2018

Vacant, House Nominee
Term: 2015 - 2019

Statement of
Rodrigo Romo
Program Director

Pacific International Space Center for Explorations Systems (PISCES),
Before the
Committee on Higher Education
Friday, February 13th, 2018 @ 14:10
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HB2324

**RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR
EXPLORATION SYSTEMS**

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Keohokalole and members of the Committee.

Dear members of the committee I want to express my support for HB2324 an Administration bill relating to the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES).

In HRS 201-76 which transferred PISCES to DBEDT from the University of Hawaii, PISCES was administratively attached to the Office of Aerospace Development, an office under DBEDT, a principal department of the State of Hawaii. Since HRS Section 26-359a0 states that the administrative supervision of any board or commission should be established or placed within a principal department for administrative purposes, PISCES should be administratively attached to DBEDT. HB2324 addresses and corrects this technical flaw within HRS 201-76 and expressly places PISCES within DBEDT.

HB2324 also makes needed changes to the membership of the PISCES Board of Directors as defined in HRS 201-77(a). HRS 201-779a) designates the executive director of PISCES as an ex officio Board Member. Since the executive director of the space center is confirmed by the PISCES Board, which also sets the salaries and duties of the executive director, there is a built-in conflict of interest. The PISCES executive director should not be a member of the PISCES Board. HB2324 deletes the executive director as an ex officio Board member and adds the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo or his/her designee. Since the PISCES program resides on the island of Hawaii, the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo would provide the island of Hawaii academia's perspective to the Board. The deletion of the PISCES executive director from the Board and the addition of the University of Hawaii at Hilo Chancellor has the effect of eliminating the built-in conflict of interest, and of holding the number of PISCES Board seats at nine, maintaining an odd number and the five-person quorum.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.
Rodrigo Romo.

HB-2324-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:00:50 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/13/2018 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB) supports HB2324 and appreciates the legislature's recognition of PISCES as an important contributor to Hawaii's economic, research, science, technology, and innovation sectors.

HB-2324-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 4:13:17 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/13/2018 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlton York	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposed on the basis that we need more help here on the ground and no real need to get into space , Food , Housing , ecological protection for hawaii is a much better way to use available funds !

HB-2324-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 2:31:08 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/13/2018 2:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly Oppose.

Not one dime of Hawai'i taxpayer funding should be going to any space related projects until we solve the many problems we have right here at home.