



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

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Statement of
Rodrigo Romo
Program Director

Pacific International Space Center for Explorations Systems (PISCES),
Before the
Committee on Economic Development, Tourism & Technology
Wednesday, March 14th, 2018 @ 13:30
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
HB2557-HD1
RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION SYSTEMS (PISCES)

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Taniguchi and members of the Committee.

Dear members of the committee I want to express my appreciation and strong support for HB2557-HD1.

Over the past four years PISCES has seen its funding reduced to the point where staffing has had to be reduced and some workforce development programs are at risk of being eliminated .

One of PISCES’ primary objectives is to work with Hawai’i’s youth in workforce development programs to better prepare them to meet the demands of the high tech job market. In the past 4 years PISCES has provided hands on work experience to over 30 university interns in its internship program and exposed over 30 high school girls to STEM related fields of study in its STARS program. PISCES’ interns that graduate from college end in high paying jobs with prestigious companies. STARS participants tend to follow a STEM related program in college.

This bill provides PISCES with the funding required to continue working these highly valuable programs and therefore I strongly recommend your consideration to pass it, so long as it does not reduce the budget priorities of the State Financial Plan.

PISCES would also like to request an amendment to HB2557_HD1 to include language that provides a \$1,000,000 ceiling to PISCES Special Fund. The language to be added would be:

- *Section x. Section 201-80.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:*

“(c) All moneys in excess of \$1,000,000 remaining in the Pacific international space center for exploration systems special fund at the close of each fiscal year that are deemed, by the director of finance, to be in excess of the moneys necessary to carry out the purposes of this section in the next fiscal year, shall lapse to the credit of the state general fund. [L 2015, c 163, §2]”



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This provision allows PISCES to receive external supplemental external funds in the forms of grants and/or contracts that would allow us to meet our goals and obligations of promoting the aerospace industry in Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Romo".

Rodrigo Romo
Program Director
PISCES
99 Aupuni St. Ste 212-213
Hilo, HI 96720

HB-2557-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 1:18:29 PM

Testimony for ETT on 3/14/2018 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair; the Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2557 HD1 relating to DBEDT; PISCES; Appropriation; and Workforce Development.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2557 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No.2557 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates money to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to support the internship and economic development programs of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e recognize that the responsible use and development of technology in all its manifestations offers immense potential for our community, government, including institutions of higher education and business sectors. We encourage synergistic research, development, commercialization and educational programs to promote technological proficiency and innovation. In particular, we support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives in our public, private and charter schools as these prepare the next generation to address the needs of our state. We also support programs that facilitate incubator, i.e. start-up, opportunities for new and promising technologies, and encourage the local retention of our intellectual resources. (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 149-156 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2557 HD1 appropriates money to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to support the internship and economic development programs of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee
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