



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

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Term: 2015 - 2019

Statement of
Rodrigo Romo
Program Director

Pacific International Space Center for Explorations Systems (PISCES),
Before the
Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 @ 10:30
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HB2557-HD1-SD1
RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION SYSTEMS (PISCES)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith -Agaran and members of the Committee.

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

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.

This Bill also includes a provision which 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.

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

HB-2557-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 3:54:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth hansen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha- This idea seems inappropriate for Big Island. Not sustainable for the environment.

We cannot just spend taxpayers money on an unknown company like this - it is not a feasible project. Please reject this bill.

Mahalo.

Elizabeth Hansen

Hakalau HI 96710

HB-2557-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2018 3:56:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives: This idea seems inappropriate for Big Island. Not sustainable for the environment. We cannot just spend taxpayers money on an unknown company like this - it is not a feasible project. Please reject this bill. Your opposition to this bill will be most appreciated.

Rodger Hansen//Hakalau HI 96710

Statement of
Kyla Defore
Before the
Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 @ 10:30
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HB2557-HD1-SD1
RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION SYSTEMS
(PISCES)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith -Agaran and members of the Committee.

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

My name is Kyla Defore and I am a 2016 graduate of the University of Hawaii at Hilo Geology program. I participated in a PISCES summer internship during the summers of 2014,2016 & 2017 working on In-Situ Resource Utilization research, characterizing Hawaiian sites to be used as Lunar/Martian analogues and helped conduct research for basalt manufacturing. These internships prepared me for working in the field, taught me how to conduct research effectively, gave me invaluable leadership skills and has made me a competitive candidate for graduate school when I decide to attend. The most significant outcome from interning with PISCES has been my current employment with PISCES. Through my internships and volunteering for PISCES they have given me a position as Geology Technician. As an entry level geologist this is a corner stone in my young career and I am eternally grateful. I truly believe in this internship program and the wonderful opportunities it brings to students. I have personally seen a number of young students sky rocket their career because they started at PISCES.

HB-2557-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2018 11:19:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. 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 **HB2557 HD1 SD1** relating to DBEDT; PISCES; Appropriation; Workforce Development; and the PISCES Special Fund Ceiling.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2557 HD1 SD1** and supports its passage.

HB2557 HD1 SD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates moneys 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, and inserts a ceiling of \$1,000,000 for the pacific international space center for exploration systems special fund, effective 7/1/2112.

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 **HB2557 HD1 SD1** appropriates moneys 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, and inserts a ceiling of \$1,000,000 for the pacific international space center for exploration systems special fund, effective 7/1/2112, 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

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

Statement of
Alexandra Nisenoff
Before the
Committee on Ways & Means
Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 @ 10:30
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

HB2557-HD1-SD1
RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR
EXPLORATION SYSTEMS (PISCES)

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith -Agaran and members of the Committee.

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

I was a participant in the 2017 STEM Aerospace Research Scholars program. By participating in this program I decided that I wanted to pursue a degree in astrophysics and computer science. Furthermore, this program showed me that coming back to Hawaii after college would be a feasible option.

HB-2557-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2018 6:23:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2018 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlotte Godfrey-Romo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keth-Agaran and members of the committee:

I am a science middle school teacher on the Island of Hawaii and have seen first hand the work that PISCES has done with their workforce development program and for that I am in strong support of this Bill.

The programs that PISCES develops have an invaluable effect on the students who participate in them. Hawai'i needs more programs of this type.

Mahalo for the opportunity to present comments.