



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

LATE

Testimony of
Elizabeth Kuluwaimaka
Darlyne Vierra
Aloha Beck
Jeffrey Kekoa
Ka'u Aha Moku Representatives

Before the Senate Committee on
Ways and Means

Friday, February 23, 2018
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Testimony
In OPPOSITION
Of Senate Bill 2703
Relating to Special Revenue Bonds; SpinLaunch Inc.; Satellite Launch System

Senate Bill 2703 authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist SpinLaunch Inc., with the financing of the planning, design, and construction of a satellite launch system on the Island of Hawaii, in the Moku of Ka'u.

The Moku of Ka'u encompasses the ahupua'a of Keawaiki, Pohue, Kahuku, Kapininui, Pakiniiki, Kalilikii, Kalae, Kawela, Kiolakaa, Waiohinu, Kamilo, Honuapo, Kaalaiki, Hiilea, Naalehu, Ninole, Wailau, Punalu'u, Makaha, Kopumoaula, Paauau, Kauhuula, Kaalaala, Kapapala, Kaaha, and Keauhou. These ahupua'a are in one of the most pristine large areas on Hawaii. In our Aha Moku System, we represent the communities of the Public Trust, and the traditional practitioners of many different disciplines throughout all the ahupua'a.

Attached to the State Department of Land and Natural Resources, we have worked collaboratively with most of the divisions on the sustainability and protection of our natural resources, many of which are found nowhere else but in Ka'u. We are dismayed and disappointed that our Legislators have decided to support an endeavor that does not have the support of the people, especially in the area that is designated to hold this launch system. We know nothing about this project and if there were any public scoping meetings in Ka'u, we were not approached. We have fought for decades to keep Ka'u – **KA'U**. We are saddened, and frustrated that we had to find out about this on social media, a tool that many of us here in the country do not have, because many do not have internet or computers. We depend on our legislators to let us know when something of this magnitude is planned where we live.

Giving a company \$23,000,000 to assist a company from Delaware and one that no one in Ka'u is familiar with to plan, design, construct, and acquire land to build a satellite launch system is something we do not understand

nor can we support this before any public scoping meeting is held, or at least a meeting called by our Legislators who represent Ka'u.

From reading this bill, we understand the Legislature's wish to increase the economy for Hawaii and see the need to reduce cost access to space, to meet a mandate to expand access to space and to facilitate a growth environment for commercial space industry. How will this be accommodated and keep Ka'u – **KA'U**?

We understand that this is a Decision-Making hearing and no oral testimony will be accepted! However, we ask, for the reasons listed in this letter, that SB 2703 be held until the people of Ka'u can meet with the developer, with our legislators and others to fully understand what this initiative will mean to the sustainability of Ka' u's natural and cultural resources, endemic flora and fauna, and especially to the traditional and cultural practices that have been strongly on-going for generations here.

Please hold SB 2703! We look forward to speaking to our Legislators, County Council Representatives, and the developers of this plan as soon as possible.

Mahalo nui loa and respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Kuluwaimaka, Aha Moku Representative of Ka'u
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LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:46:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derek Lang	Testifying for Engineering Space	Support	No

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2018

10:00 am

Conference Room 211

SB 2703 RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS

TO ASSIST SPINLAUNCH INC

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2703 addressing the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to provide financing to assist SpinLaunch Inc. in constructing a portion of its small satellite launch system. I respectfully encourage support to this bill.

I am Derek Lang, of Engineering Space, an aerospace technology development and consulting firm. I am a life-long space enthusiast and have been an advocate of the public traveling to, and using space, since the early days of the US allowing private companies launch into space. I began working with SpinLaunch because of its vision for dramatically changing the way we access space and use space to improve life back here on earth. This is a project that can benefit Hawaii's economic development, tourism industry, and technology base.

My family used to visit Hawaii since I was a youth, and we continue to do so on a regular basis. I am not a native, but I appreciate the Hawaii's cultural heritage and people. It is often a balancing act to look forward to the future, while protecting a rich history. In this case, space is something about which people, young and old, can get excited. The vision of space offers hope and wonder. It also offers economic opportunity and benefit. If there are ways to tap into this in

a way that does not compromise Hawaii's deep rooted values, they should be seriously considered and supported.

It is often the in technology, agriculture, and raw commodities that Hawaii must export in order to create income. However similar to tourism, operation of a launch site draws customers and business opportunity, i.e., it brings people and money. SpinLaunch offers this unique opportunity to bring positive financial benefit island without Hawaii giving up its resources.

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:37:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael D Vergalla	Testifying for Free Flight Lab	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and members of the Ways and Means Committee:

As a non-profit focused on distributed sensing of the Earth for advancement of conservation, climate science, and aviation safety Free Flight Lab supports SB2703. This measure helps to determine conservation and stewardship plans for Kawainui. We specifically support the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to provide financing to assist SpinLaunch Inc. in constructing a portion of its electrical small satellite launch system. The involvement of new aerospace start-ups has the potential to benefit local economy, as well as bring advanced technology industries to the region. Specific benefits can be seen from startups such as SpinLaunch Inc. that may be capable of contributing to satellite constellations bringing persistent global coverage for Earth Science, GeoSpatial Data, Weather, and Communication Networks. This system will provide democratized access to Space and opportunities for new players and local start-ups in the satellite insight industry. In addition, the commercial success of the proposed facility will generate interest and pride in the local community, inspiring students who will be able to experience locally the excitement of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Thank you for accepting testimony on this issue.

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 3:36:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Roberts	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

These are sacred lands near Pohue bay. Please consider another location to do this.

Mahalo,

Laura

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 5:02:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Koonohiokala Norenberg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:19:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Nancy Bondurant	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Ladies and Gentleman:

You have got to be kidding! How in the world is a satellite launch service going to benefit our struggling agricultural community? Is it not enough that you are denying Kau basic services, i.e police, water, fire, community schools, emergency shelter. garbage, etc., but now you are considering not only funding but siting this endeavor in Kau? Are we just a dumping ground?

This is the United States and we are entitled to basic services. Once Kau wakes up and realizes that they have been deliberately denied these services through the negligence of the legislators and the county council, its only a matter of time before Kau residents demand what is rightfully due to them, even if it means splattering all of the dirty laundry on national TV.

The residents of Kau are firmly against funding this project and siting it in our neighborhood.! You can put it next to your house.

VOTE NO on SB 2703!

Dr. Nancy Bondurant, DMA

Kau resident

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:04:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua'ena N. Ahn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE

This does not sound like a wise investment. Is this an experimental technology? An industrial accident or human error could have devastating consequences for people and the environment. I fail to see how this is in the best interest of public health, safety and welfare.

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:15:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawk Jones	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

What an absolute disgrace that our representatives would even fathom allowing such a monstrosity of a project to acquire Pohu'e Bay. Maybe you missed the part about where in a techcrunch.com article -- <https://techcrunch.com/2018/02/22/spinlaunch/> -- , and I quote from the article:

'Alternatively, the catapult could provide some of the power needed with cargo being equipped with supplemental rockets necessary to leave earth's atmosphere.'

We don't want rockets or missiles to be launched from down here in the Ka'u, we don't want new solar fields down here in the Ka'u, we don't want objects being flung into space from the Ka'u, and the Ka'u residents absolutely OPPOSE a private company buying, for any reason other than stewardship and conservation, Pohu'e Bay.

Pohu'e Bay is one of our great last 'secrets' down here, untouched and pristine. Why is the State not purchasing the land and making it a reserve for it biological (Hawksbill Turtles nesting beach) reasons, along with it's cultural significance.

Not only that but us residents just found out about you passing this all in the dark.

A word to SpinLaunch, stay out of the Ka'u .. you will be opposed.

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:30:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2703 RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST SPINLAUNCH Inc., with financing of the planning, design, and construction of a satellite launch system on Hawai'i Island and especially at Pohue (Kahuku Ahupua'a) in Ka'Å«!!

Our Kupuna disagreed with a space port when it was proposed at Ka Lae in the 80's. I don't think a mini space launch facility being at PÅ• hue (Kahuku Ahupua'a) would've changed their minds in today's day and age. We don't need another site in Ka'Å« being desecrated thus directly affecting anymore of the health of our people and the well-being of our environment!

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 9:30:52 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair Senator Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

Due to the sensitivity of this issue, I feel more public awareness should be considered. Therefore, I respectfully oppose this bill at this time.

Mahalo,

Crystal Kia Nae`ole Paul

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:05:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laulani Teale	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:35:25 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is not an appropriate use for this land.

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:35:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Farrar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a Hawaii bond investor, I oppose the use of tax free bonds to support a private company.

As a Ka'u resident, I oppose using tax free bonds to help a private company to buy and exploit a pristine cultural resource such as Pohue Bay in Ka'u, Hawaii. The ancient petroglyphs, the endangered hawksbill turtle nesting sites, the anchialine ponds; these are things that need to be protected. The white sand beach is not a private beach as is stated in the real estate listing. There are NO private beaches in Hawaii, as you should know. If such a deal goes through however, it would essentially create a new barrier to this public resource.

In my opinion, as an experienced investor and retired financial advisor, this is a bad use of public funds. A better use of revenue bonds would be to bring drinking water to the people of Ka'u & South Kona.

I urge you to vote no on SB2703 in it's current form.

Thank you, Diane Farrar

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:10:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose ~ We already said NO many times!!!

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:23:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly Oppose.

The definition of insanity; taxpayer guarantee of \$25 Mil in bonds to a new, un-tested company with 'no product' & no history. That funding is needed in sooooo many other places!

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 12:31:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha honorable senators,

I truly think this is not a valuable use of our funds when there are so many needs for our citizenry. in Hawaii. \$25 Million in taxpayer guaranteed bonds to a new, un-tested company with no 'product' and no history of launches.

Respectfully submitted,

April Lee; Hawi, HI

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 1:47:03 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felix Tailon	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I opposed SB2703 because of the location Pohue Bay. Giving a private company SpinLaunch of Delaware up to \$25,000,000 to build a satellite launching facility in an area called Pohue Bay, which is a prestin sanctuary beach where endangered turtles nest & feed. Local Hawaiians use the beach for substance to feed there Ohana using traditional Hawaiian practices passing it down to their children who someday can perpatuate this Hawaiian traditions. Salt, metal and electrical wires don't mix very well. This location is at the very Southern part of the Hawaiian Islands where fine salt is blown all over the area. Kalae has wind farms i suggest you look into how they been operating under these conditions. Strong currents in the area can wash up the worlds debris which also can be another situation awareness to expect. Curious to know how an East coast company can operate in a West coast enviroment. This facility has no fonancial gain to locals because you'll need an engineer technical degree to work at facility. In summary your developing a facility displacing endangered sea turtles nesting grounds. Preventing Hawaiians from perpatuating traditions. Hope the salt don't be a problem and SpinLaunch can repay the millions of dollars by June 30,2023 Act Shall Lapse. You politicians at the Capitol can make financial decisions postive or negative for us taxpayers. You don't live in the area let alone use Pohue Bay but want to develop this area. I know majestic Ka'u is a very large area but i don't want to deal or put up with possibly another Honolulu Rail Transit DEBACLE.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:17:47 AM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
dee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Do not destroy our beautiful Pohue Bay. The Ka'u coastline has many cultural and wildlife significance that should be preserved. Im shocked that a Senator from Oahu who doesn't live here on Moku Nui would suggest our beautiful Pohue Bay as a possible site. It's also amazing how companies continue to search out in space, when we don't even know what lies beneath depths of our Oceans. I say NO TO SB2703. Thank you

LATE

SB-2703

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 6:58:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mary mcandrew	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

I have an extensive background in real estate and studied extensively in Honolulu and the entire State of Hawaii I currently reside in Ka'u and Honolulu

Regarding this parcel of land, please consider that this area is may appear underutilized but it it rather a fragile and delicate ecosystem on the slopes of Mauna Loa which is better served to be preserved as conservation land and not developed into launching facilities for private companies

Moreover, to float a bond for such a thing is fiscally irresponsible

Please consider the long term impact of such irresponsible choices that support ravaging the landscape at huge costs to the people of Hawaii

Sonetimes, highest and best use is not about money

Please reconsider supporting this bill It is bad policy

Thank you, Aloha, Mary McAndrew