

**LATE**

Testimony: SB 2751 Relating to PISCES 10:10 AM Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb

To: Senate Ways and Means Committee Chair Sen Dela Cruz; Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran; and Committee Members

UH Applied Research Lab (ARL) is pleased to submit testimony on the subject Bill.

UH ARL respectfully objects to certain portions of SB 2751 attaching Hawaii Unmanned Air System (UAS) Test Range directorship to PISCES. The business of UAS Test & Evaluation deals in low-altitude aeronautics, flight safety, and privacy law compliance; FAA and US Code airspace rules; and civil agency (eg Police, Fire, Health, Environment) usage of UAS. The body of work necessary for success in UAS is unrelated to the space exploration technology legacy of PISCES.

Currently the Hawaii Test Range functions are operated under UH Applied Research Lab via agreement with DBEDT, and under the overall direction of the Pan Pacific UAS Test Range Complex (PPUTRC), itself an FAA-authorized team comprising UAS operations and engineering centers at U Hawaii, U Alaska, Oregon State U, Kansas State U, and Mississippi State U.

Placing Hawaii UAS Test Range operations under PISCES would adversely affect the Hawaii UAS test range program, which depends on established relationships with leadership and members of PPUTRC as above. Furthermore such a placement under PISCES would require PISCES to a) become a Public Aircraft Operator under Title 49 of the United States Code (49 U.S.C.) §§ 40102(a)(41) and 40125; b) be capable of authorizing Certificates of Authorization for pilots and UAS under the FAA UAS Test Site contract; and c) operate UAS airspace under FAA Order 8900.1 Vol 16 Chapt 4 Sec 5. UAS Test Operations are focused on low-altitude Aeronautics, Safety, and Privacy Protection, not on Space Exploration.

We recommend leaving UAS Test Range operations as they are today.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Pacific International  
Space Center for  
Exploration Systems

Statement of  
**Rodrigo Romo**  
Program Director  
Pacific International Space Center for Explorations Systems (PISCES),  
Before the  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 @ 10:10 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

**LATE**

In consideration of  
**SB2751,SD1**  
**RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION SYSTEMS**

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

Dear members of the committee I want to express my support for SB2751,SD1 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.

SB2751,SD1 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. SB2751 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.

Finally, this bill sets a ceiling for PISCES' Special Fund, making it possible for the agency to take in supplemental funds from research grants and private contracts to conduct its operations.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Rodrigo Romo.