



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
February 15, 2018 at 1:20 p.m.

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

SB 2751 – RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION SYSTEMS

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kim and Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 2751. 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 SB 2751 which includes the UH Hilo chancellor as part of the Board of Directors which would provide the island of Hawaii's higher educational perspective on the board.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.



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 Higher Education &
Economic Development, Tourism & Technology
Thursday, February 15th, 2018 @ 13:20
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

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

Chairs Kahele & Wakai, Vice Chairs Mercado & Taniguchi and members of the Committee.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Rodrigo Romo.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
Luis P. Salaveria
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND TECHNOLOGY**

Thursday, February 15, 2018

1:20 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of

SB2751

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

Chairs Kahele and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kim and Taniguchi, and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) strongly supports SB2751, 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. SB2751 addresses and corrects this technical flaw within Section 201-76, HRS, and expressly places PISCES within DBEDT.

SB2751 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. 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, 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 support for SB2751.

Statement of
Christopher Yoakum
1667 Kilauea Ave.
Hilo, HI 96720
Private Citizen

Before the
Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
and Committee on Higher Education
Friday, February 15th, 2018 @ 1:20 p.m
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
SB2751
RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR
EXPLORATION SYSTEMS (PISCES)

Dear honorable members of the Committees,

I wish to express my strong support for SB2751 relating to administrative changes for the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES). This measure will allow PISCES to simplify its administration process and become a more independent, autonomous entity. In effect, the agency will be able to focus more time and energy on its core objectives of cultivating valuable Applied Research, Workforce Development and Long-term Economic Development projects and opportunities that benefit the State of Hawaii.

Your attention and consideration in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Mahalo,

Christopher Yoakum
February 14, 2018

