

## 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  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

Friday, April 13, 2018  
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 423

in consideration of  
**SCR 143, SD1**

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND  
TOURISM AND APPLIED RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO  
CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE  
SAFE, LEGAL, AND BENEFICIAL USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN HAWAII.**

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Quinlan, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SCR143, SD1, which requests DBEDT and the Applied Research Laboratory at the UH to convene a Hawaii Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Working Group to advise on the developments and risks of UAS usage.

DBEDT believes that businesses utilizing UAS, or drones, will experience strong future growth. Besides the business value, both in design-development and application, UAS have been shown to be an important attraction for our keiki, encouraging them to participate in STEM education.

The small mechanical and material scale of UAS combined with the heavy concentration of intellectual products (software and analytical sensor functions) is a mix that suits Hawaii-based businesses well.

It is essential to the development and growth of this business segment that a well-informed legislature, provided with information on tech trends and operational solutions worked out elsewhere, and tied in with emergent national regulatory and legal evolution, guide this business forward in the best interests of Hawaii.

SCR143, SD1 provides such a framework and we are pleased to support, and contribute as requested in the Resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Resolution.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Transportation  
Friday, April 13, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

by

Ted Ralston, Unmanned Systems Program Director, Applied Research Laboratory - UH  
on behalf of

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 143 SD1 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND APPLIED RESEARCH LABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE SAFE, LEGAL, AND BENEFICIAL USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS IN HAWAII.

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Quinlan, and Members of the Committee:

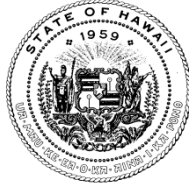
The University of Hawai'i (UH) is in support of SCR 143 SD1, which seeks to address the safe and legal operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in Hawai'i.

The requested collaboration between the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism and the Applied Research Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i brings to bear a wide range of disciplines, businesses, agencies – as well as direct links to timely national-level UAS policy developments, that can provide the Legislature with a well-considered and well-balanced view on value, promotion and control of this emergent technology.

Recent discussions between the Federal Aviation Administration and UH on the increase of UAS misuse in the state underscores the need of this UAS working group.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



Testimony of:  
JADE T. BUTAY  
Director

Deputy Directors  
ROY CATALANI  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**LATE**

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 13, 2018  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 423

**S.C.R. 143, S.D. 1**

House Committee on Transportation

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) – **supports** S.C.R. 143, S.D. 1 that addresses the safe, legal, and beneficial use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) in Hawaii by developing a working group.

The DOT looks forward to participating in the discussions regarding best practices, standards, and educational and certification frameworks for UAS use which are now being taken on at the national level through presidential initiatives, rules by federal departments and agencies, and suggestions from professional organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.