



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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 20, 2020
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB 1912, HD1
**RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR
EXPLORATION SYSTEMS.**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism appreciates the intent of HB 1912, HD1, which establishes the Pacific International Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) within the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism for administration purposes. The measure amends the composition of the board of directors of PISCES, creates an unspecified number of exempt positions, and transfers the rights, powers, functions, and duties of the employees to DBEDT.

DBEDT supports the bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

Statement of
Rodrigo Romo
Program Director
Pacific International Space Center for Explorations Systems (PISCES),
Before the
Committee Finance
Thursday, February 20th @ 11:00
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HB1912-HD1
**RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION
SYSTEMS**

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Committee.

PISCES appreciates the intent of HB1912, which establishes the Pacific International Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) within the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism for administration purposes. The measure amends the composition of the board of directors of PISCES, creates six exempt positions, and transfers the rights, powers, functions, and duties of the employees to DBEDT and offers the following comments:

PISCES is entering a transition period in which it will need to make some modifications to move from RCUH contract based operations into being an attached agency of the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT). This bill makes the necessary adjustments and modifications that will make this possible and allow the program to continue to operate into the future. We support this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Rodrigo Romo.
Program Director
PISCES

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:20:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David S. De Luz, Jr.	David S. De Luz, Sr. Enterprises, Inc.	Support	Yes

Comments:

I/we support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modications to ensure its contiuation after this transition year and I/we STRONGLY support this bill.



From: Doug Simons
To: Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, House Committee on Finance
Subject: Letter of Support for HB1912-HD1 relating to the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES)
Date: 19 February 2020

Through this letter I would like to state my strong **support** for HB1912-HD1 which establishes the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) within the department of business, economic development, and tourism for administrative purposes.

PISCES has demonstrated convincingly that they are a pioneer in high-tech development activity on Hawai'i Island and they have become an integral partner on many fronts with the Maunakea Observatories, a leader worldwide in astronomical research. This bill provides PISCES with the resources needed to advance their research efforts, which benefit the development of aerospace and other local industries in Hawai'i. PISCES has been a strong supporter of STEM education and workforce development for high school and college students, partnering on numerous occasions with the Maunakea Observatories and providing unique opportunities in robotics design and engineering. I look forward to many years of continued partnership between Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope and PISCES and would deeply value your support of PISCES and all it represents to the future of Hawai'i.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Simons".

Dr. Douglas A. Simons
Executive Director
Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Corp.

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:34:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kyla Defore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill to ensure that operation of PISCES continues throughout the future.

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:37:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
austen drake	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year, therefore I support this bill.

Sincerely,

Austen Drake

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:38:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Yoakum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year. Therefore I support this bill.

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:41:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amber Imai-Hong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year, therefore I support this bill

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 10:52:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Bonewitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The PISCES program has helped my students and I support the program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year, therefore I support this bill.

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 12:35:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pascale Creek Pinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please continue to support the PISCES program as this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year.

I have been involved with this project as an educator for many years. Over the last seven years, Rodrigo Romo has volunteered to come and speak with my middle school science students. They are truly fascinated by what is being done by this program, and MORE IMPORTANTLY, they see how this work would provide a STEM career for them in the near future.

Having the opportunity to work with NASA and be here on the forefront of the research and development of equipment and software for our journey to the moon and Mars is supremely important! Financially, the State, as a whole, will benefit from the industry that will be brought to our Hawaii island by PISCES. This in turn, will allow our best and brightest to remain here instead of going to the mainland to find STEM work (brain drain).

You can see why I support the continuation of this program. It benefits the island of Hawaii and most importantly, our island keki, who are our future! You may contact me at my school email:

pascale.pinner@k12.hi.us Mahalo for your support!

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:54:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Newton Chu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year.

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:59:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert P. Mueller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

“ I support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year, therefore I support this bill”.

PISCES is a positive influence on the aerospace community and inpsouires the next generation. Their work on Basalt materials research has been very productive.

Rob Mueller

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 1:06:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephen Alderete	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year, therefore I support this bill.

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:21:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kalepa Baybayan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha members of the Committee on Economic Development and Business, and the Committee on Labor and Public Employment,

I am writing in support of House Bill 1912 and the PISCES program. This bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year.

Sincerely,

Kālepa Baybayan, Navigator and Captain

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 2:42:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Solemsaas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year, therefore I support this bill

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:19:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Farias	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

PISCES is a critical part of developing new industries and technology in our state. I support this bill, which makes the necessary modifications to ensure the continuation of PISCES after this transition year. Mahalo.

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 3:32:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Minafra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Joseph Minafra the LEAD of Innovation and Technical Partnerships at the NASA Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute continue to support the PISCES program in bill HB1912 that makes the necessary modifications to ensure PISCES can continue after this transition year. For the last few years I have become involved in robotics education for the youth in Hawaii thru the help of PISCES and would like to maintain the job growth and technical job opportunities the future youth can aspire and participate because of PISCES.

PISCES has been an asset to the community especially for the our community college. They have created opportunities for my students both present and past. The loss of PISCES not only would impact our students but the state of Hawaii. The technologies that PISCES help develop improves the lives of average people. The idea of interplanetary travel is a project that will develop technologies that will move people across the solar system and those technologies will also be used in some form here on this planet . This is great publicity for Hawaii. Hawaii will become the central hub for the new Space Command. Should we not be involved in technology? Technology is at our door and not much can stop it. Funding is significant in the success of companies like PISCES. I would ask that we not “bury our heads in the sand” but realize the future is here. The opportunities for our students would diminish and the opportunities for Hawaii would as well.

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 8:35:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Luke Flynn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1912-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 12:28:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betty Brand	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year; as such, I wholeheartedly support H1912 (HD1). Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

LATE

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 20, 2020

H.B. 1912, H.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL
SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION SYSTEMS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO provides comments for the purpose and intent of H.B. 1912, H.D. 1 which establishes the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism for administrative purposes.

We are generally supportive, however this measure creates positions exempt from the civil service. We respectfully request that all positions, with the exception of the executive director, are established as civil service positions. The positions currently listed in this measure reflect similar positions within the civil service system and should have the same rights, benefits and protections as a civil service employee. Furthermore, civil service status creates consistency, fairness, stability and longevity that benefits both the employee(s) and the employer.

With respect to the transition of all rules, policies, procedures, guidelines and other material adopted or developed by the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, shall be properly consulted in accordance with Chapter 89, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on H.B. 1912, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director