



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 Economic Development & Business
And
Committee Labor and Public Employment
Wednesday, February 12th @ 09:30
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Kitagawa, Chair Ling Johanson, Vice Chair Eli and members of the Committees.

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 with one recommended amendment:

Page 8 lines 20-21

Replace:

“~~[The director of business, economic development]~~, and tourism may prescribe the ..”

With:

“The executive director may prescribe the...”

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Rodrigo Romo.
Program Director
PISCES

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 2:35:24 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judi Morris	Oceanit Laboratories, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 4:28:17 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Madhu Thangavelu	Univ Southern California	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program because it offers a fine and unique education for the explorers of Hawaii and for their children to follow the great exploration traditions of the people of Hawaii and the United States. Fifty years have gone by, and through PISCES and HISEAS and other projects, we hope to return to the Moon soon. And this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year. Therefore I support this bill. May God bless you all for promoting such wonderful vision for our children.

Madhu Thangavelu

<https://pressroom.usc.edu/madhu-thangavelu/>

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 5:05:43 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Minafra	NASA Solar System Exploration Research VI	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.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 11:45:46 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David S De Luz Jr	David S, De Luz, Sr. Enterprises, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill make the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year,I humbly request your consideration of supporting this bill.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 8:54:19 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Campagna	Global Ground Systems LLC	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

Submitted on: 2/9/2020 8:57:03 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Campagna	BridgeSat Inc.	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.

GOVERNOR ARIYOSHI FOUNDATION

Hawaii Space Industry Innovation Program (HiSPACE)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1912

Members of the Thirtieth Hawaii State Legislature:

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB 1912, relating to the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES), which sets forth guidelines for an annual progress report to the Legislature, as well as appropriate funding to support PISCES operations and staff, including their transfer to the Dept. of Business, Economic Development & Tourism.

Since its inception in 2007, PISCES has continued to enable Hawaii to demonstrate its leadership role in space research and development, leveraging our State's Moon/Mars-like terrain (the Big Island affords one of the highest fidelity lunar analog sites on Earth) and resident expertise in science and engineering to develop, test and evaluate pioneering research and technologies on the frontiers of space enterprise – economically demonstrating and refining space-faring hardware and systems in preparation for future interplanetary missions – as well as to promote public-private partnerships and multinational alliances that can help reduce the costs, enhance the benefits, and accelerate timetables for future space missions.

PISCES is also an enterprise that will enable Hawaii to maintain its leadership in multinational space endeavors that will afford exceptional economic and society returns to humanity on Earth, as well as continue to inspire strong interest among students in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering – our future leaders in space research and development – that will enhance economic prosperity and wellbeing for generations to come.

In addition, PISCES research will support the development of new manufacturing processes and procedures to utilize natural, "*in situ*" resources in an environmentally conscientious way, while also enabling new approaches to harness energy to power and sustain future exploration sites on Earth's Moon and on Mars, as well as state-of-the-art robotic and autonomous robotic systems for applications both in space and on Earth – all of which will provide new business and employment opportunities in Hawaii, as well as promote innovative educational and workforce development programs statewide.

I would be happy to address any questions you might have regarding the vision and opportunities for PISCES to help lead our State to the future in space, and respectfully encourage your support for this legislation.

With much appreciation and Aloha,



Jim Crisafulli, Director
Hawaii Space Industry Innovation Program (HiSPACE)

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 1:20:10 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
bernard michels	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

PISCES is a critical componant to the community. I am an instructor for our local community college and have to say that PISCES has benifitted our students through interships and joint projects and allowing our students experiences in high tech industry. PISCES gives positive exposure for Hawaii.The future needs organizations like PISCES to benifit the future of mankind. Devolopement of technologies through companies like PISCES allow us the technologies that we enjoy today. Do you LIKE YOUR PHONE. This item did not develope it's self. It's the PISCES groups who develope the technologies that move us forward.

Thank you for your time

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 1:28:15 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Binsted	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 1:32:42 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Kerr	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.

Richard Kerr

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 1:55:17 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harriet Parsons	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and all the amazing efforts and opportunities they provide here on Hawaii island. This bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year, therefore I support this bill.

Mahalo

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 2:52:31 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 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

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 3:54:00 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michaela Musilova	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

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 6:55:24 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ALEKS VELHNER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 7:02:33 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nyra Dee	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, HB1912.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/8/2020 11:06:20 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 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. Mahalo.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 6:48:41 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Dowd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I enthusiastically support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year. PISCES, and especially the STARS program for high school girls, are critical for our students, citizens, and state. Hawai'i is unique in so many ways and STEM opportunities provides our students with the necessary skills to thrive in an ever changing high technology world. I work for a global company with a trillion dollar market cap and we cannot hire enough people to fuel the growth in the high tech industry. Hawai'i students and citizens are needed!

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:46:34 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 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.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 8:17:30 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support the PISCES program because it is a critical part of creating new scientific and economic opportunities in Hawaii.

I support this bill because it makes necessary modifications to ensure the continuation of the PISCES program after this transition year.

Mahalo!

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 3:37:41 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support the PISCES program and this bill which will allow the agencies continuation.

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 4:22:37 PM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dennis Gibson [USA]	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the PISCES program and this bill makes the necessary and needed modifications to ensure the Center's continuation after this transition year. I encourage you to support this measure.

Dr. Luke Flynn
94-1115 Hahana Street
Waipahu, HI 96797

Dear Members of the 30th Hawaii State Legislature:

I am writing to express my strong **SUPPORT** for **HB1912 – Relating to Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems**.

In 1992, I graduated from the University of Hawaii at Manoa with a PhD in Geology & Geophysics. I have lived in Hawaii for 34 years and raised two children here who also graduated from UH. I am now a professor in the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology (HIGP). Throughout my research career, I have managed 26 external grants and contracts worth approximately \$50M or an average of \$1.9M/year since graduation. A very high proportion of these funds are used to support faculty co-Investigators, staff, and students that have all supported the State economy. Since 2002, I have been the Director of the NASA Hawaii Space Grant Consortium (HSGC) and the NASA Hawaii EPSCoR Programs. The function of HSGC is to provide STEM education and NASA workforce development opportunities in Hawaii. The function of NASA Hawaii EPSCoR is to expand aerospace research infrastructure within the State. Finally, since 2007, I have been the Director of the Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL). HSFL's objective is to design, build, test, launch, and operate small spacecraft from the Hawaiian Islands. On November 3, 2015, HSFL's first launch from the Pacific Missile Range Facility did not achieve orbit. However, there were a lot of successes. The rail launch system worked perfectly. The world took notice that Hawaii can become a space-faring State, and the world took notice that our local students built a satellite that passed all tests for space flight.

The PISCES program provides opportunities for business development and workforce training in space applications. The PISCES program is especially important for the Big Island, and I have worked and continue to work with PISCES on space-related opportunities for the State of Hawaii. I strongly support the PISCES program, and this bill makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year. I strongly support this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Dr. Luke Flynn

HB-1912

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:21:56 AM

Testimony for EDB on 2/12/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mari-Ela David Chock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to express my deep support of the PISCES program. As a former employee (2013-2015), I can personally attest to not only the importance of the work that PISCES conducts, but more importantly, the collective intellectual capital and expertise that the PISCES staff brings. The STEM opportunities for youth, particularly in education and workforce development, that PISCES offers on Hawaii Island are invaluable. As such, I highly support this bill, which makes the necessary modifications to ensure its continuation after this transition year.

Mahalo,

Mari-Ela Chock, Waimea (Kamuela) resident



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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

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LATE

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS
And
LABOR & PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT**

Wednesday, February 12, 2020
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

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

Chairs McKelvey and Johanson, Vice Chairs Kitagawa and Eli, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism appreciates the intent of HB 1912 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.

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.