



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Friday, March 12, 2021
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
SB 935, SD2
RELATING TO AEROSPACE.

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent and provides comments on SB 935, SD2, which establishes the Office of Aerospace Development in the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC), repeals the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems, and transfers the rights, powers, functions, and duties of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems to the Office of Aerospace Development.

The Office of Aerospace Development (OAD)'s mission is to facilitate dialogue and coordination among the state's government, private and academic sectors, and between state-based organizations and overseas institutions, both public and private, to promote the development and diversification of Hawaii's aerospace industry. As the focal point in state government and in aerospace endeavors, establishment of OAD in HTDC will need funds to continue its work.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Written Statement of
Len Higashi
Acting Executive Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
House Committee On Economic Development
Friday, March 12, 2021
11:00 a.m.
Videoconference

In consideration of
SB935, SD2
RELATING TO AEROSPACE.

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

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) offers **comments** on SB935, SD2 that establishes the Office of Aerospace Development in the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation instead of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and repeals the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems and transfers the rights, powers, functions, and duties of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems to the Office of Aerospace Development.

HTDC supports the intent of this measure to expand the role of aerospace in Hawaii. HTDC agrees that aerospace has huge economic development potential and the state possesses many inherent competitive advantages. HTDC comments that while the industry has huge potential, the cost of establishing a substantial footprint in Hawaii will likely be accordingly high. The sector will require appropriate resources to develop. HTDC defers to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism on the potential efficiencies gained by restructuring. HTDC looks forward to working with all stakeholders in moving aerospace forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.



Pacific International
Space Center for
Exploration Systems

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Statement of
Rodrigo Romo
Program Director
Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES)
Before the
Committee on Economic Development
Friday, March 12th, 2021 @ 11:00
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
SB935 SD2
RELATING TO AEROSPACE

Chair Quinlan, Vice Chair Holt and members of the Committee:

I am writing to appreciate the intent of this Bill, and refer to DBEDT's comments on the bill.

Aerospace is an industry growing at a rapid pace, NASA's Artemis program is creating a high demand for the development of new technologies, materials and processes that will help advance the return to the Moon.

Hawaii has the opportunity to participate in this growing industry by taking advantage of its geographical location that makes it an ideal site for equatorial launch of small satellites and for space tourism. It's geological landscape and resources makes it a highly desirable location for companies involved in planetary surface development.

The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) is currently engaged in various aerospace related projects. It is important to provide continuation to this work so as to not lose the opportunities to develop these economic development opportunities in the Aerospace Industry. Whether as a direct attached agency of DBEDT, or under a unified aerospace office within HTDC, funding will be required to allow this work to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments.

Rodrigo Romo
Program Director
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