



1           §   -3 Hawaii space commission board; established. (a)

2 The commission shall be governed by a board of directors to be  
3 known as the Hawaii space commission board. The board shall be  
4 composed of:

- 5           (1) Three members appointed by the governor;
- 6           (2) Three members appointed by the president of the  
7                 senate; and
- 8           (3) Three members appointed by the speaker of the house of  
9                 representatives.

10           (b) In making appointments under subsection (a), the  
11 governor, president of the senate, and speaker of the house of  
12 representatives shall prioritize appointing individuals who have  
13 experience in:

- 14           (1) Commercial aerospace;
- 15           (2) Civil aviation;
- 16           (3) Military aerospace;
- 17           (4) Space economic development;
- 18           (5) Space-related academic research; and
- 19           (6) Nonprofit support of the space economy.

20           (c) The board shall:  
21           (1) Oversee the commission;



- 1           (2)   Oversee the development of the strategic plan; and
- 2           (3)   Establish appropriate standards to ensure the proper
- 3                    use of funds authorized under this chapter for
- 4                    research and facilities development.

5           **§   -4   Hawaii space commission; powers and duties.**   (a)

6   In addition to any other powers and duties it may have, the  
7   commission shall:

- 8           (1)   Identify research and funding opportunities for
- 9                    entities in the State that:
  - 10                   (A)   Strengthen and enhance the development of space
  - 11                            flight infrastructure;
  - 12                   (B)   Enhance integration of the space, aeronautics,
  - 13                            astronautics, and aviation industries into the
  - 14                            State's economy; and
  - 15                   (C)   Promote research involving materials derived from
  - 16                            or developed through space exploration and space
  - 17                            flight; and
- 18           (2)   Support workforce training for space exploration.
- 19           (b)   The commission may:
  - 20                   (1)   Adopt and use an official seal;



- 1           (2) Solicit and accept gifts or grants, and contract with  
2                   any entity;
- 3           (3) Acquire and convey property or an interest in  
4                   property;
- 5           (4) Procure insurance as the board considers necessary and  
6                   advisable to accomplish the commission's purposes;
- 7           (5) Make grants to public or private persons with an  
8                   established presence within the State to encourage  
9                   economic development related to space exploration;
- 10          (6) Make grants to enhance the capacity of institutions of  
11                   higher education to participate in and support  
12                   classified research;
- 13          (7) Provide matching funding to external funding provided  
14                   by relevant federal agencies, private industry, or  
15                   private research organizations;
- 16          (8) Engage in the planning and implementation of  
17                   aerospace-related educational opportunities within the  
18                   State in coordination with the Pacific international  
19                   center for high technology research under section  
20                   304A-3101; and



1 (9) Adopt rules under chapter 91 for purposes of this  
2 chapter.

3 § -5 **Executive director.** The board shall appoint an  
4 executive director of the commission, who shall:

5 (1) Serve as the commission's chief executive officer;

6 (2) Be responsible for developing and administering the  
7 commission's programs under the board's direction;

8 (3) Serve on a part-time or full-time basis;

9 (4) Have a demonstrated ability to lead and develop  
10 academic, commercial, military, or governmental  
11 partnerships and coalitions;

12 (5) Be familiar with the people and cultures of Hawaii;

13 (6) Be exempt from chapter 76; and

14 (7) Employ staff under chapter 76, within available  
15 appropriations.

16 § -6 **Strategic plan; annual report.** (a) The commission  
17 shall develop and annually update a strategic plan for the  
18 promotion of space, aeronautics, and aviation economic  
19 development within the State.



1 (b) The strategic plan shall identify potential projects  
2 that further the purpose of the commission, and, for each  
3 project:

4 (1) The estimated total cost for completion, including a  
5 potential state matching cost; and

6 (2) An assessment of the availability of external funding  
7 sources.

8 (c) The strategic plan may include any other information  
9 the commission deems relevant to furthering the purpose of the  
10 commission.

11 (d) The commission shall prepare an annual report of its  
12 activities for the prior fiscal year.

13 (e) The commission shall submit the annual report and the  
14 latest strategic plan to the legislature no later than twenty  
15 days prior to each regular legislative session.

16 § -7 **Space exploration and aeronautics research special**

17 **fund.** (a) There is established the space exploration and  
18 aeronautics research special fund to provide grants to eligible  
19 entities.

20 (b) The fund shall be composed of:



- 1 (1) Gifts, grants, and donations provided to the  
2 commission; and
- 3 (2) Moneys appropriated to the fund by the legislature.
- 4 (c) The commission may provide grants to eligible entities  
5 for:
- 6 (1) Development of emerging technologies required for any  
7 aspect of human space flight;
- 8 (2) Research involving any aspect of space exploration and  
9 space flight;
- 10 (3) Workforce training to promote space exploration and  
11 space flight;
- 12 (4) Curation of post-mission materials involved in space  
13 exploration and space flight; and
- 14 (5) Development of infrastructure useful or necessary for  
15 the establishment or maintenance of a spaceport.
- 16 (d) The following entities shall be eligible for a grant  
17 under this section:
- 18 (1) A business or nonprofit entity involved in the space  
19 exploration, research, or aeronautics industry; and
- 20 (2) A governmental entity with which the commission has  
21 entered into an intergovernmental agreement for the



1           purpose of advancing space exploration, research, or  
2           the aeronautics industry."

3           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2026-2027 for deposit into the space exploration and aeronautics  
8 research special fund.

9           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the space  
10 exploration and aeronautics research special fund the sum of  
11 \$           or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
12 year 2025-2026 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be  
13 necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the Hawaii space  
14 commission to award grants to eligible entities.

15           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii space  
16 commission for the purposes of this Act.

17           SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
20 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year





1 2026-2027 for the establishment and operation of the Hawaii  
2 space commission.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
4 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
5 of this Act.

6 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

7

INTRODUCED BY: Kani Dain  
JAN 14 2025



# H.B. NO. 197

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Space Commission; DBEDT; Appropriations

**Description:**

Establishes the Hawaii Space Commission within the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to promote innovation in the fields of space exploration and commercial aerospace. Appropriates moneys.

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