



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
Wednesday, January 31, 2018 at 1:15 p.m.

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

### SB 2702 – RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Chairs Wakai, Nishihara, and Kim, Vice Chairs Taniguchi and Ruderman, and members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of this measure to form a unified aerospace development corporation to support a rapidly growing industry that could become a major economic driver for the state.

While "Big Space" will continue to be dominated by government agencies, small satellites have allowed exponential growth in the commercial sector. The need for small launchers is rapidly increasing as indicated in an August 26, 2016 *Economist* article that references five U.S. companies needing to get 4,700 small satellites to space in the next five years. Four U.S. small launch companies have expressed interest to use a potential easterly launch site in Hawai'i because rockets launched from Hawai'i lift more payload to orbit than any other state due to its location near the Equator. Small launch is a large niche market that Hawai'i can fill. Small satellites and their derived data now represent tens of billions of dollars per year. Hawai'i must move quickly and effectively to capture this opportunity for this generation and the next.

In support of the further expansion of an aerospace industry in Hawai'i, UH has programs like the Hawai'i Space Grant Consortium (HSGC) that build and maintain pipelines of education and experiential learning that bring Hawai'i students from middle school to graduate school in an aerospace and STEM environment. In 2015, the Hawai'i Space Flight Laboratory's first launch from the Pacific Missile Range Facility did not achieve orbit, but put the world on notice that Hawai'i could become space-faring state and that UH students have the ability to build and design satellites certified for space flight.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.