



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.

By

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on behalf of

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SB 2702 SD1 – RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT OF THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) respectfully submits comment on SB 2702 SD1.

The original measure, SB 2702, was based on the Legislature's belief that the Office of Aerospace Development (OAD) at DBEDT was being disestablished, thus requiring its current programs be housed in some other way at DBEDT to be saved. In actuality, OAD is not being dissolved and DBEDT is actively interviewing candidates to staff the office. Thus, the need to re-assign current OAD programs to a new business structure within DBEDT, no longer applies.

As a result, UH respectfully recommends that the Legislature amend SB 2702 SD1 by deleting all sections related to Hawai'i Unmanned Air System (UAS) Test Range (line 3 on page 62 thru line 11 on page 65), one of the programs currently under OAD – as it is not related to the space launch and space technology focus of the measure.

In the larger view, a public-private corporation designed around successful models in other states would be highly appropriate for Hawai'i, potentially bringing together commercial (including international) partners, financiers, academia and government, to spur growth in Hawai'i's aerospace sector and help to diversify the state's economy. Such an entity could fulfill the intent of SB 2702 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.