Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs

Richard Cowan  <rcowan3@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs

As the Apprenticeship Program Coordinator at the Hawaii Community College I wanted to express my full support for the Flight Training Center at the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

The training center will provide a career pathway for the youth of Hawaii in an industry that will be facing a tremendous shortfall, in the coming years, for skilled pilots as their existing workforce nears retirement age.

"As airlines have recently started hiring, nearly all of the regional airlines that GAO interviewed reported difficulties finding sufficient numbers of qualified entry-level first officers". (GAO-14-232: Published: Feb 28, 2014. Publicly Released: Feb 28, 2014)

The airline industry continues to be one of the most robust segments of the economy and the training center at the University of Hawaii at Hilo would be ideally situated to provide the training and career pathway for our undeserved population.

--

Richard T. Cowan
Apprenticeship Program Coordinator
Hawaii Community College
Office of Continuing Education & Training
1175 Manono St.
Bldg 385A Rm 1A
Hilo, HI  96720
Phone:  808 934-2692
Fax:  808 934-2691
As a pilot for 40 years in Hawaii, I strongly support the aviation program. There is presently no such training program in Hawaii, (though you can rent an aircraft and instructor on O`ahu, we cannot even rent an aircraft in Hilo.

We need a program which has an academic base, with the ease of learning to fly at Hilo, Kona, Punene, Barbers Point, and Port Allen.

Please support such as this so we not have import pilots from the mainland for the essential part of an island state.

George D. Curtis
Box 237
Honomu 96728
A Recommendation

Phillip Olsen <philolsen@hawaii.rr.com>
To: bor@hawaii.edu

For the Board of Regents

Hilo is the last place in Hawaii for a flight school for all the valid reasons listed by Professor Gould, as well as one extremely important and ultimately intractable reason a UH/Hilo flight will fail: local opposition to all air traffic.

I am a retired USAF pilot. I have flown all-weather, day and night throughout Europe, Middle east, Africa, and southeast Asia. I have logged 14,700 hours in flight.

I strongly support a four-year, degree-granting aviation program at the University of Hawaii Kalaeloa facility.

I have flown in Hilo as a flight instructor, an early Hawaii Air Ambulance pilot, as a corporate jet PIC, and as an FAA-designated check airman for the recently abandoned Honolulu Community College Flight School at John Rogers Field (aka) Kalaeloa, as well as at the UH Community College facility on Lagoon Drive, which was and still can be a valuable adjunct for an Oahu-based flight training facility.

The implacable rejection of air traffic by traditional residents of Hilo and nearby communities will doom every effort by UH to establish a flight school, which together with location, remoteness from a major population center, as well as indisputably the worst flying weather in the Hawaiian Islands, makes for a dismal future for any flight school unwisely located anywhere on the Hamakua Coast.

Several years ago, Hilo led our state’s slightly more than a dozen airports for IFR take-offs and instrument approaches to landing. I presume it still leads Hawaii’s airports for percentages of non-visual approaches.

Before becoming a UH/Manoa college administrator and associate dean, I spent considerable time in Hilo during a six-year assignment as director of a UH training program for Peace Corps Volunteers bound for assignments in countries throughout Asia and the Pacific Islands. During that period (1967 to 1972), in an effort to retain my flight currency, as well as to assist several aspiring
younger student pilots in various stages of proficiency, I learned the frustrating reality of Hilo weather--it's a fine place to practice instrument flying in actual non-visual conditions. It was a brilliant choice for a Peace Corps training center, and the fine local folks everywhere on the Big Island, as well as elsewhere, could not have been more supportive of our presence training more than 3,000 Peace Corps Volunteers. However, I was aware of local opposition to even the modest flight training activity during my time there.

Hilo Airport is the right place to practice instrument approaches, landings, and take-offs in actual non-visual conditions but Hilo is certain to fail as a primary, *de novo* flying school.

Hilo also is the right place to spend millions on facilities already available for $1 a year at JRF.

Sincerely,

Phillip Buck Olsen, ATP/CFI-I, No.1299872
Capt. USAF (Retired), FAA-Designated Master Pilot
Ref-1: Hilo Flight Training Center Hawai'i

Curt SHARP <curt.sharp3@gmail.com>       Wed, Jan 11, 2017 at 3:37 PM
To: bor@hawaii.edu
Cc: Curt SHARP <curt.sharp3@gmail.com>

Ref: Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs

The acceptance and support of this program [specifically for a "flight training" curriculum] will provide the following benefits:

1. actually create the educational mechanism which will provide the foundation and resources for this type of specialized and sophisticated program(s);
2. expand the UHH curriculum and in doing so attract a "local" contingent whose dreams have been to "fly";
3. as part of the latter, further attract a large mainland and international contingent;
4. increases the community interest in aviation job sets related to any aviation organization (one that comes to mind is a complete aircraft maintenance program supporting a wide range of aircraft);
5. on the latter point, a well grounded maintenance program in Hilo will in turn be an open invitation for aircraft servicing for the Pacific area;
6. produce teachers who then provide similar training programs throughout the Pacific rim.

This is very brief, and I am primarily looking at the introduction of this program to provide more chances for our children as they look for exciting opportunities, opportunities which allow them to remain on the home front. And because it will need to be built and implemented according to Federal guidelines and SOPs, the chances of acquiring sufficient funding to complete and continue the educational facilities over a long period of time will be available.

We have the UHH, and we have the space to follow through on the design and implementation. Personally I find it a terribly exciting and long-term fulfilling situation for Hawai‘i Island.

We need more of these types of ideas which can be turned into purposeful "products" for, primarily, to create a professional culture for our children.

Best regards,

Curt Sharp
185 Apoke Street
(Now in) Hilo, Hawaii, 96720-1617
808-209-4700
Support an aviation program at UHH

Luisa Castro <luisac@hawaii.edu>  
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Dear Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs: I am writing to show my support for an aviation program at UH-Hilo. As a parent of a son who participates in the Civil Air Patrol and who is interested in becoming a pilot, I would love for him to be able to attend a school on island and get the training he needs without having to leave to the mainland and incur huge debt to achieve his dream.

If there were such a program, you can be assured that my son would attend to learn how to become a pilot and get a bachelors degree in commercial aviation. Being able to do this in Hawai‘i, would be HALF the cost and would support OUR economy as well as invest in our future!

Mahalo for your consideration.

Luisa F. Castro, Ph.D.  
Program Coordinator,  
College of Continuing Education and Community Service  
(808) 932-7826 | luisac@hawaii.edu |  
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Dear Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs,
I am writing in support of the Aviation Program proposed for UH Hilo. The Hilo airport is an underutilized facility that would be a great location for the aviation program. We have a huge need for pilots in an Island State and it makes sense that we start the program in Hilo where there won't be too much competition for air space. There is a great demand for this type of training and the cost on the mainland is exorbitant. I work with the cadets at the Civil Air Patrol Lyman Field Squadron in Hilo and there are several cadets who would choose to attend UH Hilo if the program was available. In addition I have a current cadet attending UH Hilo who is looking at having to go to the mainland if the program does not get approved. Not only is the Big Island a great location for fixed wing aircraft, but UAV training as well. I will do everything I can to help the program be successful. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,
Keith Marrack
Deputy Commander for Cadets
Civil Air Patrol Lyman Field Squadron
Financial Advisor, Edward Jones
Aloha Sir or Ma'am,

I am writing to support the creation of an aviation undergraduate curriculum. This is a subject near and dear to me; I recently retired from the US Navy after 26 years as an aviator. Additionally, my last active duty assignment was on the Garden Island at the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

An aviation curriculum will not only benefit the students but the State of Hawaii. Students will learn to think multidimensionally and more importantly, proactively. Getting ahead of the aircraft is the goal of every aviator and translates directly to non-flying.

The benefit to Hawaii comes in two parts. The first is a cadre of highly educated students that can be employed globally spreading aloha and acting as ambassadors for Hawaii. The second is enabling Hawaii to be a spaceport. Ideally situated for equatorial launches, Hawaii has an opportunity to attract a new industry to Hawaii further diversifying the economy. The Mary Knoll school on Oahu is building a space program so there is demand in the State. Astronauts almost exclusively come from aviation backgrounds so let's grow them in state.

Mahalo nui loa for your time. I am more than happy to further this dialogue. Sincerely, Bruce Hay
Dear Board of Regents,

I am writing in support of the Aviation Program. I'm currently a freshman working for a double major in Psychology and Communications. It would be an amazing experience to be able to take aviation through UHH, my passion is in aviation and after college I plan to pursue being a commercial pilot. I know that if the program opened up in Hilo there would be many students who would love to be a part of the program, myself included.

I hope that I have helped inform your decision about this with my story, and I hope that it gets voted through.

Thank you very much,

Jordan Drewer
Aloha Chair of the Committee on Academic Affairs,

Please consider my written testimony for the recommendation of setting up the Provisional New Program for a Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Sciences, at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.

My son Casey Kishimori is a Junior at Hilo High School. He has attained the rank of Eagle Scout and 2nd Lt. in the Civil Air Patrol in his Junior Year of High School. He has a grade point average of 3.8 and is a member of the HHS golf team and does Advance Kempo Karate.

It has been his dream to be a air cargo pilot. We have looked a various options, unfortunately due to his eye sight and having cough variant asthma the Air Force Academy would probably not be attainable for him.

In searching for a university that offers a BA in Aviation and Aeronautics we looked at Embrey Riddle in Arizona, but financially that is out of our price range. At this point California Baptist College or San Diego Christian College is on our list to visit in search of a university that offers a BS in Aviation and Aeronautics.

When I heard about the Provisional New Program at the University of Hawaii at Hilo offering a BA in Science in Aeronautics, I got really excited! This would be a prayer come true for my family. If the Bachelors in Science in Aeronautics program becomes a reality by the Fall of 2018 my son Casey Kishimori will definitely be enrolled at the University of Hawaii at Hilo Campus and be applying for this program!

Mahalo to the Board of Regents and Kai Kahele for working on this program!

Sincerely,

Kurt and Sandee Kishimori

Kurt Kishimori
sakkhk@aol.com
January 9, 2017

Jan Naoe Sullivan, Chair
University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents
2444 Dole Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Chairman Naoe and Members of the University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents,

The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo (UH-Hilo) Aeronautical Program would establish a four-year school of aviation pilot program. Hawai‘i will have the opportunity to develop into the premier location for a world class aviation training program. As an island state, aviation is an integral part of Hawai‘i, and unfortunately Hawai‘i’s aspiring pilots have been required to move out-of-state to receive their flight education.

The private sector currently is unable to cater to the growing demand of pilots in order to prevent pilot shortage. However, this initiative presents a solution by incorporating flight training with academic studies to provide Hawai‘i’s youth with an economical solution to pursue their career dreams while staying close to home. Considering our geographical location in the Asia-Pacific, this program would attract students from throughout the country and pacific region.

Aviation is essential to our island state and its economy, as the UH-Hilo aviation program will be the first of its kind, it would develop a firm foundation for employment in the airline industry, commercial aerospace development and military aviation. UH-Hilo Aeronautical program has the significant potential to expand and diversify opportunities for creating aerospace related jobs for Hawai‘i citizens statewide, and will strengthen the State’s aviation capabilities. In addition the STEM opportunities and career pathways of the proposed programs will provide opportunities for Hawai‘i students to compete on the global economy.

Sincerely,

Karlson Pung

Cc: Lee Putnam, Regent
University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

Donald Straney, Chancellor
University of Hawai‘i at Hilo
January 11, 2017

University of Hawai‘i
Board of Regents
2444 Dole Street
Bachman 209
Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Sciences, University of Hawai‘i at Hilo

Aloha Chairwoman Sullivan and members of the UH Board of Regents,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide input regarding the creation of a four-year baccalaureate program in aviation at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. While we support the creation of a locally-based aviation program, we encourage the Board of Regents to take the time to assess the best venue and structure for such a program.

Hawaiian Airlines is our State’s oldest and largest airline. Our cadre of 600 A330, B767 and B717 pilots represents 10 percent of our workforce. We are acutely aware of the myriad benefits a Hawai‘i-based aviation school would provide, from opening up job opportunities for local youth to building a workforce of pilots who are from Hawai‘i and committed to living in our Islands.

We believe a major objective of any program would be to make sure that it is accessible to the widest possible range of Hawai‘i’s students. To that end, we would recommend that the University of Hawai‘i take the time to include the aviation community in a full and robust discussion of how best to approach this exciting idea.

Sincerely,

Ann Botticelli
Senior Vice President
Corporate Communications and Public Affairs