



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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HCR123 – RECOGNIZING AEROSPACE AS A STRATEGIC AND TIMELY GROWTH INDUSTRY FOR HAWAII AND REQUESTING THE STATE ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE PROACTIVE, COORDINATED, AND SUSTAINED ACTION TO FULLY REALIZE THE SIGNIFICANT SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL, AND COMMERCIAL BENEFITS THE AEROSPACE INDUSTRY CAN BRING TO THE STATE.

I am pleased to provide this testimony in strong support of HCR 123, which underscore the importance and potential of aerospace as a strategic and timely growth industry for the State of Hawai'i.

As this resolution emphasize, Hawai'i's unique geography, mid-Pacific location, resident scientific and technological expertise, and substantial international connectivity provide our State with exceptional and competitive advantages in the international space community – strategic assets and capabilities that can expand and diversify our role as both a contributor to and beneficiary of the global space enterprise.

Hawai'i is no newcomer to aerospace, and for the past half century has played a seminal role in both developing and implementing our national space agenda. The University of Hawai'i, often in partnership with NASA, NSF, NRL, AFOSR and aerospace companies worldwide, has taken a leadership role in these efforts – beginning with astronaut training for the Apollo lunar missions to the development of world-class observatories on the islands of Hawai'i and Maui, and continuing with nationally and internationally funded programs supporting astronomical and space surveillance research as well as planetary geosciences, advanced satellite communications, space-based remote sensing and environmental monitoring, and other areas utilizing aerospace-related technologies. Yet new opportunities are forthcoming in aerospace that are ideally suited for our State – many of which hold substantial scientific, educational and commercial promise for residents statewide.

Hawai'i's unique geography and environmental resources will enable us to serve as a test-bed and training site for new technologies and integrated systems that can take us back to the Moon, to Mars and beyond. Our State's inter-island and trans-Pacific aviation routes make it an ideal location to help test and evaluate next generation air

traffic control and flight safety technologies. Our strategic location will enable us to serve as a trans-Pacific node for future commercial space transportation, as well as a launch site for sending experimental payloads and small satellites to Earth orbit. Our multiple research alliances with Asia-Pacific nations can facilitate an international dialogue and exchange toward multinational space partnerships that can reduce costs and enhance the benefits of future space missions.

Aerospace clearly presents windows of opportunity for our State to develop creative alliances among our university, government and private sectors that can foster innovative joint research ventures, better train Hawai'i's workforce in strategic technology skills, and pave the way for the research spinoffs to the private sector for commercialization – all of which can significantly strengthen our economic base, enrich our educational opportunities, and expand Hawai'i's leadership role in pioneering the “next generation” of human space exploration.

As such, I strongly support the visionary recommendations set forth in HCR 123, and urge our State Legislature to unanimously adopt this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.