



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Economic Development and Business  
February 4, 2014 at 8:30 a.m.

by  
Donald O. Straney  
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

**HB 2151 – RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR  
EXPLORATION SYSTEMS AND NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND  
SPACE ADMINISTRATION LASER COMMUNICATIONS GROUND  
STATION INITIATIVE**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Ward and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). We support the intent of HB 2151 to fund the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) to conduct an engineering assessment for a proposed laser optical communications ground station in Hawai'i in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). We would hope this engineering study is conducted in conjunction with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa College of Engineering.

This proposal will help to stimulate the growth of our State economy through the development of new innovative technologies that support the creation of high-tech jobs as well as improvements in broadband and optical fiber infrastructure statewide. UH Hilo views the proposal as an opportunity to collaborate with PISCES to provide higher education and career options to the people of our Hawai'i Island.

We support HB 2151 provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2151. Aloha.