HB 2152 HD1 SD1 – RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION SYSTEMS

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii'i at Hilo (UH Hilo). We support the intent of HB 2152 HD1 SD1 to fund the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) to support administrative and general tasks, strategic program initiatives, and the preliminary development of the PISCES research and development park.

This proposal will help to expand and diversify economic and workforce development opportunities throughout the State by promoting the establishment and growth of new sustainable and green industries, internships, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education programs. UH Hilo views the proposal as an opportunity to collaborate with PISCES to provide higher education and career options to the people of our Hawaii'i Island.

We support HB 2152 HD1 SD1 provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2152 HD1 SD1. Aloha.