



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business and
House Committee on Higher Education
on
Tuesday, March 20, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.
by
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SB3037 SD2 RELATING TO THE PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL SPACE CENTER FOR EXPLORATION SYSTEMS

Chairs McKelvey, Nishimoto, Vice Chairs Choy, Nakashima and Members of the Committees:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i Hilo. I am testifying in reference to HB 2873 HD2 relating to the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES). I support of the intent of this bill.

I am willing to see the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) be operated by the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism as described in the current version of this bill. The University of Hawai'i is willing to continue to participate in aspects of the program in its new home.

The bill would instruct the University to transfer appropriations, etc. obtained with PISCES funding to the Department. Once there is an agreed upon inventory of PISCES materials, the University will facilitate the transfer of materials purchased under state funds to a location of the Department's choosing. The same will be done for materials obtained under federal funds or by private gift following the procedures and rules relating to the disposition of such materials. Costs of the transfer should be the responsibility of the program, which currently has federal funds for its activities. There are currently no state funds appropriated for PISCES, nor does the University have any positions related to PISCES.

The University continues to believe PISCES needs a business plan to fulfill the considerable promise it has. The University of Hawai'i would welcome the opportunity to continue dialogue with the legislature and with the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to produce a business plan that can serve as a strong foundation for the development of this opportunity.