



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before  
Senate Committee on Higher Education and  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 2:45 p.m., Room 229  
by  
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University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### **SB 909 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chairs Kim and Wakai, Vice Chairs Kidani and Taniguchi, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 909, which appropriates funding for an Aeronautical Sciences degree program at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. Resources needed for 2019-2020 are \$446,000 including two full-time equivalent positions (2.0 FTE) and program costs. Program costs include one professional full motion aircraft simulator, one closed cockpit simulator, 6 desktop simulators, and a combination of drones for teaching and data collection along with sensor technologies. A total of four full-time equivalent positions (4.0 FTE) and ongoing operating costs for 2020-2021 are projected to be \$365,000.

The bill will support the UH Hilo campus in its development of the Bachelor of Science in Aeronautical Sciences program, which will provide training for both commercial aviation pilots and for commercial pilots in the rapidly growing field of unmanned aviation technology. Both of these have predicted shortages.

UH Hilo will have opportunities to create new partnerships with private industry, educational institutions, and government agencies in both flight training and aerial data and information technology. Students with a strong background in commercial aviation, UAS operations, payloads, instrument calibration, data handling, and interpretation will be in high demand as the UAS industry continues its rapid expansion.

UH Hilo is firmly committed to establishing a program that both increases access for the youth of Hawai'i to pursue careers in aeronautics and creates a highly educated workforce for industry sectors that create jobs and benefit the state.

UH Hilo supports SB 909 provided that requested positions or funds do not displace any priorities in the University's Biennium Budget request. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on behalf of SB 909.