



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on
Ways and Means
February 26, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

SB 1299, SD1 – Relating to Advanced Flight Simulator Training

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i stands in support of this measure.

Honolulu Community College (HCC) operates the University System's only flight training and aviation mechanic training programs. The mechanic's program was started in 1949 and the flight training program, founded in 1998, is looking forward to its 11th year of operation. Although the flight industry is in a turbulent time, both programs have the potential for growth. The College hopes to eventually partner with airlines and/or airplane manufacturers in offering this training domestically and internationally to countries that are in great demand for pilots and aviation mechanics.

Since the first private pilot class in August 1998, the Pacific Aerospace Training Center under HCC has helped over 650 students earn their FAA pilot flight certifications and ratings. These commercial pilots are flying with air carriers in Hawai'i, nationally, and worldwide.

Over the last 3 years, HCC has been in numerous discussions with one of the world's largest airline manufacturers to develop partnerships on both pilot and aviation mechanic training for their customers. A bill such as this would assist prospective private sector partners in making an investment in expensive flight training resources in Hawai'i.

We look forward to further solidifying the University of Hawai'i's capacity to become a world-class flight training center.