



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Economic Development and Business
March 14, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

by
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SB 2583 SD1 – 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 SB 2583 SD1 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 SB 2583 SD1 provided its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our BOR approved budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2583 SD1. Aloha.