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Members of the 24th Legislature
State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Spaceport Hawaii Appropriation Bill

Dear Members of the Legislature:

As Chairman of the Board of the Space Frontier Foundation I am thrilled with the Hawaii State Legislature's vision in introducing bills to fund the effort to obtain a Spaceport Operators License from FAA/AST. Many of our members have worked very closely with the FAA's space division since its inception to enable the growth of human space flight operations all over the US, and have found them committed to encouraging growth and economic development while simultaneously assuring public safety and compliance with all environmental regulations. FAA/AST has become skilled at managing the licensing process so that applicants do not have to spend inordinate amounts of time or money to obtain the necessary operating licenses.

There are now more than a dozen companies developing new reusable suborbital launch vehicles, and many of these entrepreneurial companies would be very interested in looking at Hawaii as a possible base of operations. Historically, it has been exactly this kind of new start-up business mentality that has created entire new industries in the US. Having the State of Hawaii take a pro-active position in this new area of economic development will bring the benefits of new jobs and investment to the state, while also diversifying the economy.

In addition, there will be many educational benefits to having Hawaii become a spacefaring state. The Hawaiian spaceport may become a training launch site for The Space Frontier Foundation's Teachers in Space program, which seeks to put hundreds of astronaut teachers in American schools within the next decade. We have already had six different vehicle developers donate flights to this program to fly teachers from local spaceport communities on a suborbital space flight so that they can bring the vision of humanity's future in space back to their classroom. Selection of teachers for the initial pathfinder phase of the program is already underway (see www.teachersinspace.org for details). The Space Frontier Foundation started our Teachers in Space program a few years ago, and we have already had six different vehicle developers donate flights to this program to fly a teacher from the local community on a suborbital space flight so that they can bring back the vision of humanity's future in space back to their classroom. The first round of competition to select the first two Teachers in Space is already underway. We can foresee the development of an in-state version of this program for Hawaii, where companies located at your proposed spaceport would provide flights to local teachers each year as part of their commitment to the communities that host their operations. We are prepared to meet with you to discuss all the ways Teachers in Space can benefit Hawaii.

Hawaii is also uniquely positioned to be the home base for vehicles launching the latest generation of microsattellites and research payloads from new reusable launch vehicles that do not have any of the noise or other environmental impact of older generation expendable launch systems. Just as the mainframe computer transitioned to the PC twenty years ago, new small satellite payloads with increased capability will provide opportunities for an entire new class of space-based business activity to flourish.

Changing the cost-plus government contractor paradigm that has been in place for the last 50 years in the space world is challenging, and it takes support from the public sector to succeed. There are now more than a dozen states with either an existing or proposed spaceport development, and scores of "NewSpace" companies involved in various aspect of the development of this new industry. Please feel free to browse at www.spacefrontierfoundation.org to see the listing of these companies as well as other activities of SFF in support of new economic development in space.

The modest appropriation currently under consideration by the Hawaiian Legislature will doubtless provide a substantial return to the state in jobs and economic activity.

Very Truly Yours,

Bob Werb
Chairman of the Board
Space Frontier Foundation