



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

April 22, 2010

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Ways and Means Committee
State Capitol, Rm. 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Marcus R. Oshiro, Chair
House Finance Committee
State Capitol, Rm. 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: OFFICE OF AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Dear Chairs Kim and Oshiro,

The purpose of this letter is to request your reconsideration of your elimination of funding for the Office of Aerospace Development (OAD) in BED 128.

Firstly, as a member of the House Finance Committee, I understand how tight the budget is this year. And yes, I understand that the Senate Energy Committee had to make some hard decisions, but the Office of Aerospace will be an income generator, not a drain on taxpayer's money.

Lack of funding for this office could cause Hawaii to lose millions of dollars in opportunity costs. This is especially embarrassing since just last week Hawaii was the first state in the nation to sign a Space Act Agreement with NASA. The agreement would bring millions of badly needed federal research dollars to our economy and easily cover the \$138,000 cost of funding the OAD.

It is also very unfortunate that not funding the Office of Aerospace sends a signal to the federal government from President Obama's home state that we are unreliable, inconsistent, and unappreciative. This action will hinder our chances of securing future federal agreements, putting question marks after promises when we sign agreements.

Please reconsider your actions and let Hawaii become the first in the nation to have a crack at space settlements and small satellite research as NASA indicated we could be. I strongly urge you to reinstate funding for the Office of Aerospace Development. The benefits of the program far outweigh the costs.

With Aloha,

Representative Gene Ward
District 17, Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley

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