

GM 654

Report Title:

Hawai'i Aerospace Advisory Committee

Measure Title:

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Aerospace Advisory Committee, Gubernatorial Nominee, PETER MOUGINIS-MARK, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA
HAWAI'I INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS AND PLANETOLOGY
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Office of the Director

February 24th, 2013

Senator Will Espero
Chair, Senate Committee on Public
Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Espero:

Thank you for your kind words regarding my nomination to serve once again on the Hawaii Aerospace Advisory Committee. It is an honor to serve Hawaii in this manner, in part because such service is one of the key rationales for the creation of my Institute here at the University of Hawaii back in 1958. I am very happy to continue this long tradition of public service by the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology members. I feel that it is particularly important for me to serve at this time on this committee. Specifically:

- 1) With the large amount of State supported now provided to the PICES project, it is important to strive to get the greatest return from the investment. I believe that the initial formulation of PICES lacked a good economic model to support its long-term future, but with the new Director there is reason to be hopeful. However, it is important to make sure that PICES now includes as much local talent as possible, rather than import all the expertise from the Mainland. Here in Hawaii we have decades of experience in astronomy, planetary science, STEM education, and robotics that merit inclusion. By serving on the Advisory Committee, I believe that I can be a strong advocate for this local component.
- 2) The University of Hawaii is about nine months away from launching its own space rocket, including a satellite and instruments constructed on campus. Through the Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory (HSFL), we will be creating numerous job opportunities on Oahu and Kauai, as well as stimulate a commercial aerospace initiative. The Advisory Committee needs to have a member who is very familiar with the progress of HSFL. As HSFL is based within my Institute, I have that detailed knowledge.

3) There has been considerable recent discussion on Hawaii joining in partnership with the State of Alaska on numerous aerospace activities. This might include an extension of HSFL to include launches from Alaska and a joint proposal by Alaska and Hawaii to attract an unmanned aerial vehicle test facility. I personally have a lot of contacts at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, including with my counter-part at the Geophysical Institute, and so I can provide the Aerospace Committee with useful local insights.

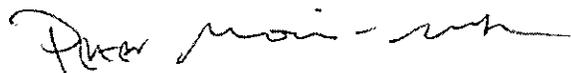
I believe that I am qualified to serve on the Advisory Committee by virtue of my 36 years working on NASA research projects, including 30 years here at the University of Hawaii. Over this time period, I have raised over \$16M in research funding for both Earth observations using satellites and planetary exploration, and I served for several years as the State's NASA Space Grant Consortium Director. I have also served as an Acting Program Manager at NASA Headquarters where I managed a national research program and the science components of two Space Shuttle missions. In my current role at the University of Hawaii (I have been Director for more than 8.5 years), I over-see numerous space research and education activities. For example, I have nine faculty members who are science team members of missions with spacecraft currently in orbit around other planets, and three faculty members working on Earth observation missions. I have also served as the Interim Associate Dean for Research within our College of Engineering, where I was responsible for the development of engineering research projects.

What I would most like to accomplish during my second period of membership on the Aerospace Committee is a greater recognition for the Hawaii Space Flight Laboratory within the State. HSFL and UH will become the first university in the world to design, build, launch, command and control its own rocket and satellite in Earth orbit. This holds the potential of bringing incredible recognition to the State and may well attract significant economic development on our islands. Despite this potential, to date, there has been no explicit State support for this effort, with all of the funding coming either from the Federal government, the private sector, or the University. Already, this has been more than a \$30M effort, so the revenue generated for the State is quite significant. I would hope that through my advocacy on the Advisory Committee, I would have the chance to influence some of the discussions on where State funding is going to develop space research and STEM education.

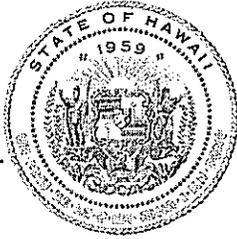
Finally, I can see no conflicts of interest that would arise during my service on the Aerospace Committee. Of course, I would strive to be an advocate for the economic development of space activities that might benefit the University of Hawaii where I work. However, there would be no possibility of personal financial gain here for either myself or any of my family members.

I therefore hope that you will support my nomination for this position on the Hawaii Aerospace Advisory Board. Should you have any further questions, I can be reached at (808) 956-8760 or pmm@hawaii.edu.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Mouginis-Mark
Director, HIGP



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

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Statement of
RICHARD C. LIM
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Thursday, February 28, 2013
2:45 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
in consideration of

GM 654

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE HAWAII
AEROSPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, PETER
MOUGINIS-MARK, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015.**

Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism **supports** the nomination of Dr. Peter Mouginis-Mark to the Hawaii Aerospace Advisory Committee (HAAC).

As Director of the Hawaii Institute of Geophysics and Planetology, Dr. Mouginis-Mark leads a broad range of research initiatives related to planetary geology; remote sensing of the Earth from the ground, air and space; small satellite space mission concepts; and sustainability technologies, particularly in relation to the confluence of energy, water and the environment. As Director of the U.H. Manoa Sustainability Initiative, he also leads a campus-wide competition for funding of sustainability-related projects, ranging from the development of an energy-efficient campus to global issues associated with climate change.

As such, we believe Dr. Mouginis-Mark has the professional skills and experience required to serve on the HAAC and recommend his confirmation to this position.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this nomination.