

Executive Summary

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Presenter's Name: Frank Schowengerdt
Presenter's Title: Director of PISCES
Presenter's Organization/Company: University of Hawai'i at Hilo

Presentation Title

The Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) as an Example of the Role that the States Can Play in Space Exploration

Key Ideas

The states can play key roles in space exploration beyond the traditional courting of aerospace and technology companies. Examples include establishment of space-related infrastructure, creation and support of research centers and educational programs in institutions of higher education and making unique natural assets available for use by the space exploration community. The initiative taken by the State of Hawai'i in stepping forward to establish and fund PISCES exemplifies all of these roles.

Supporting Information

On June 7th, 2007, the Governor of Hawai'i signed into law legislation authorizing the creation and funding of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES) at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. This new center is being built on partnerships between academia, industry and the governments of space-faring nations. PISCES will support space exploration and settlement, but it will also benefit the people of Hawai'i through economic development on the Big Island and throughout the State; directly by attracting new businesses, and indirectly by enhancing educational opportunities in science, math and engineering, thereby bolstering the technical workforce needed to attract additional high-tech industry to the State. PISCES will feature a simulated lunar outpost located in the volcanic terrain of the Big Island, where research will be conducted, new technologies will be tested, students will be educated, astronauts will be trained and the public will be invited to experience first-hand what it will be like to live and work on the Moon. Areas of emphasis include ISRU, Surface Operations, Robotics, Solar Energy and Education. Preliminary plans include the establishment of a degree program in Space Operations Technology at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The center will be the target of a major fundraising campaign in its early years, with a goal of being independent of State funding within five years.