



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Friday, April 8, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

By  
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Chancellor  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

GM 796 – Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Directors of the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems, Gubernatorial Nominee, RODRIGO ROMO, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Misalucha, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on GM 796 in support of the confirmation of Rodrigo Romo to the Board of Directors for the Pacific International Space Center for Exploration Systems (PISCES).

Mr. Romo worked with PISCES from 2014 to 2021, first serving as Program Manager, then as Program Director. While with PISCES Mr. Romo worked to create opportunities for applied research and workforce development for the benefit of the State and our youth. Projects Mr. Romo guided include Helelani Planetary Robotics, Basalt Research and Planetary LEGOs, and the PISCES STARS program to promote and encourage women in STEM.

Mr. Romo currently works for Mauna Kea Observatories Support Services as Visitor Information Station Manager. Previously in his career he spent 16 years as the Vice President of Engineering for Zeta Corporation, a company that offers green technology solutions for water conservation and fouling prevention in water systems.

Mr. Romo has been a tremendous asset in his prior roles with PISCES, and will continue to be an asset as a member of the PISCES Board of Directors. We strongly support the confirmation of Mr. Romo to this appointment.