

Summary of "The International Space University, the University of Hawaii, and Hawaii's space futures," for the forum, *Hawaii's Aerospace Industry: The next frontier*, Hawaii State Capitol Auditorium, August 22, 2008

Jim Dator
Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies
Department of Political Science
University of Hawaii at Manoa
<dator@hawaii.edu>
<www.futures.hawaii.edu>

I basically made three main points:

1. That there has been a strong connection between the International Space University (ISU) of Strasbourg, France and the University of Hawaii which should be strengthened. ISU was created in 1988 by three very visionary graduate students at MIT. One, Peter Diamandis, is still very well known as a space entrepreneur through his creation and operation of the X Prize and now the Google X Prize.

University of Hawaii faculty members were active in the creation of the ISU and have taught in the annual summer sessions every year since 1988. Several UH graduate students have also attended either the 9 week summer sessions or studied for either a year-long Master of Space Studies or Master of Space Management degree at the Strasbourg campus. Moreover, students from ISU annually come to the University of Hawaii to do an internship with some UH space-oriented department. The Hawaii Research Center for Futures Studies of the Department of Political Science of the University of Hawaii at Manoa has formally been an "Affiliated Campus" of ISU for a decade. This arrangement has allowed UH students to attend ISU at a very substantial cost reduction, as well as to host ISU interns at no financial cost to UH.

ISU teaches and researches on the basis of the "Three I's". Everything they do is "Interdisciplinary, International, and Intercultural". Its mission is to produce a cadre of decisionmakers in the various space agencies and industries around the world, and in supporting governmental, commercial, and media agencies, who are graduates of ISU, sharing the knowledge of how "space" is conceived and undertaken everywhere in the world in all academic and professional disciplines, so that humanity will finally settle on the planets, moons and artificial locations within the solar system and beyond. ISU is well on its way to accomplishing that goal. Its graduates are now in many of the highest decisionmaking offices around the world. As one stellar example, the head of the mammoth Chinese Space Agency is an ISU graduate, and hosted a summer session of the International Space University in Beijing in Summer 2008.

If Hawaii wants to boost its already high reputation among the space agencies and industries of the world, it should consider hosting a summer session of the ISU. This is

my very strong recommendation. There are several graduates (and current students) of ISU from Hawaii, or in Hawaii now, who would be eager to help with such an activity.

2. I have been working with Bob Fox of UH Hilo to use PISCES to create a UH Systemwide "Certificate in Space Studies" more or less conceived as a mini-ISU.

For more on ISU visit: <www.isunet.edu>

3. The speakers at the August 2008 symposium were, understandably, focused entirely on all the good things that exist and could be developed that could lead to Hawaii playing an enhanced role in national and global space activities. I support most of what I heard very enthusiastically.

But to make a fair assessment, the Legislature also needs to look at potential "show stoppers". One of special concern to me is "Peak Oil" and the general energy crisis looming for the world, but especially for Hawaii. Hawaii's oil-based tourism and consumer economy may come to a screeching halt well before space takes off here. Indeed, the entire space industry needs to make an honest assessment of its energy needs and see if it is competitive with other energy needs if a deep and prolonged energy crisis occurs, as I fear it may.

At the same time, though many speakers pointed out the large number of "native Hawaiians" involved in space activities in Hawaii now, and while the opening and closing speakers were native Hawaiians speaking in favor of enhancing Hawaii's role, nonetheless there are many people in the broader community in Hawaii, including native Hawaiians, who are by no means supportive of many of the activities that were promulgated throughout the symposium. If Hawaii really intends to play a positive role in space activities, these concerns must be proactively and fairly addressed.