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Hawaii's Initiatives in Space

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ABSTRACT

Activities related to space exploration and development have been identified by many in Hawaii as offering unique opportunities for the State of Hawaii to broaden and diversify its economic base. Although there have been many space-related programs and projects underway in Hawaii, few realized the extent to which this had occurred.

In February 1987, the Department of Business and Economic Development of the State of Hawaii asked Arthur D. Little, Inc., to evaluate Hawaii's potential for more extensive efforts in connection with space. The study team evaluated world-wide developments and Hawaii's competitive position in eight segments of space-related activities: satellite communication, remote sensing, navigation, space science, materials processing, on-orbit services, defense and launch services.

Specific recommendations were put forth to enhance the State's position. Further evaluation was conducted to select two alternative sites as possible locations for a commercial launch facility to be potentially developed on the island of Hawaii. An environmental impact statement and a master plan are being formulated as a precursor to development of one or the other site.