



February 21, 2022

To: State of Hawai‘i House of Representatives, Committee on Water & Land, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, and Committee on Finance

SUPPLEMENTAL testimony of KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance, RESCINDING OPPOSITION to HB2024, relating to Mauna Kea; PROVIDING COMMENTS.

Aloha Chairs Tarnas, Nakashima, and Luke; Vice-Chairs Branco, Matayoshi, and Yamashita and members of the Water & Land, Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, and Finance committees,

PROTECTING

NATIVE HAWAIIAN

CUSTOMARY &

TRADITIONAL RIGHTS AND

OUR FRAGILE

ENVIRONMENT

After listening to and reviewing testimony at the 2/19/22 hearing, KAHEA submits the following SUPPLEMENTAL testimony in opposition to HB 2024 with suggested amendments. Because we strongly support removing the management authority from the University of Hawai‘i who has caused irreparable harm to Mauna Kea, we rescind our opposition to this measure. However, we cannot, at this time, support HB2024 because there has not been sufficient time for community conversation about this important initiative. We stand by the concerns raised in our original testimony with the following additions.

Recommended Amendments:

- Add language to include the foundational Kumu Kānāwai as described in the Mauna Kea Working Group Report - Ho‘okikī Kānāwai, Kua‘ā Kānāwai, Kai‘okia Kānāwai, Kiho‘iho‘i Kānāwai; these traditional laws are important in guiding any new entity to put Mauna Kea and the akua that dwell there at the center of their decision-making, which would be a necessary departure from the last 50 years of management.
- Add language that would require the University of Hawai‘i to cease all actions relating to Mauna a Wākea lease and contract renewals and CDUP for telescopes until the new Mauna a Wākea stewardship authority is established and is operational.
- Amend section 4 to read: Comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to chapters 91, 92, 103D, 171, 183C, 205, 205A, and 343

In order for a new management authority to truly usher in a lā hou (a new day) on Mauna Kea, as the Working Group’s report is named, these issues must be addressed. It was absurd to hear at the 2/19/22 hearing that Mauna Kea is some of the best managed lands in Hawai‘i under the University and DLNR. How can this claim be made when 40 feet of the summit of this sacred mountain has been removed? No management scheme that allows for that kind of irreparable harm should be allowed to continue on Mauna Kea.

Mahalo for the opportunity to supplement our previous testimony.

Aloha,

KAHEA Board and Staff 2022

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KAHEA: the Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a non-profit 501(c)3 working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of the Hawaiian islands. KAHEA translates to English as "the call."