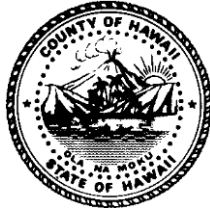


William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director

Randall M. Kurohara
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 26, 2013

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Senate Bill 456 SD1, RELATING TO MAUNA KEA STATE RECREATIONAL
AREA

Aloha, Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our strong support for Senate Bill 456, which would transfer Mauna Kea State Recreation Area in fee simple to the County of Hawai'i.

We believe this proposal will increase government efficiency and save taxpayer dollars while allowing more of our residents and visitors to more fully enjoy this important park facility. With the proper public investment this park can offer extraordinary recreational experiences, and the county is ready and able to assume this responsibility.

The County of Hawai'i has discussed this proposal with the Department of Land and Natural Resources in the past, and we remain willing to work with the state to take over the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the Mauna Kea State Recreation Area without the transfer of any state personnel or equipment.

Park maintenance and operations are core county services, and the county plans to use economies of scale to minimize its maintenance and personnel costs. Meanwhile, the transfer of this facility to the county will allow the DLNR to use its limited resources on other parks and state facilities. This solution benefits everyone, but the most important beneficiaries are the children and families that will visit and enjoy this public treasure in the years ahead.

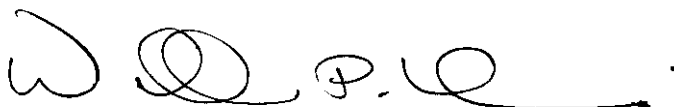
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
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The county believes Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is an increasingly important recreational facility because of the ongoing reconstruction of Saddle Road. The federal government has made a very large investment in re-aligning and improving the Saddle Road, which in turn has caused a substantial increase in use of the road by residents and tourists alike. The rebuilt Saddle Road is evolving into an important 50-mile scenic highway unlike any other in the state, and Mauna Kea State Recreation Area is perched along that route between the magnificent Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa summits. There are no other recreational, restrooms or other public facilities anywhere on the entire 50-mile drive, but the growing demand for such services is obvious.

The County is prepared to make the necessary investment in infrastructure and maintenance to allow Mauna Kea recreation area to achieve its potential as a key outdoor recreational facility. Many on our island remember when this park was a well-used community resource enjoyed by weekend campers, hikers and travelers, and we ask for your help as we seek to restore it for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. P. Kenoi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William P. Kenoi
MAYOR