

LATE

SB-2865

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Testimony for HRE on 2/15/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ka'iu Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahele, Chair Delacruz, and members of the HRE/WAM committees,

I am writing this testimony in support of SB2865 regarding the transfer of the Institute of Astronomy from UH-Mānoa, to UH-Hilo.

Given UH-Hilo's geographic location to major astronomical facilities on Maunakea, and given the critical community engagement role that UH-Hilo has fostered on island with regards to astronomy, I support UH-Hilo and hope to further advance their role in workforce development, higher education opportunities, as well as research offered on Hawai'i Island. I recognize that the Institute for Astronomy (IFA) has established Hawai'i as the premier site in the world for astronomical research and observation. Being headquartered on O'ahu however presents numerous challenges for the continued existence of astronomy on Maunakea. The relocation of IFA to Hawai'i Island would demonstrate commitment to the communities of Hawai'i Island - those most closely connected to Maunakea - and therefore will hopefully result in greater community awareness of (and connectivity to) the field of astronomy, as well as, increase scholastic and employment opportunities for the residents of Hawai'i Island.

na'u me ka 'oia'i'o,

na Ka'iu