
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2000, the
2 university of Hawaii's board of regents approved the Mauna Kea
3 science reserve master plan that called for the establishment of
4 dedicated, focused, and community-based management of the
5 university of Hawaii's lands on Mauna Kea. In 2009, the board
6 of land and natural resources approved a comprehensive
7 management plan for Mauna Kea, making it the State's official
8 plan for managing and protecting Mauna Kea's cultural, natural,
9 and scientific resources. The comprehensive management plan is
10 applicable to all lands that are leased or under easement to the
11 university of Hawaii, including the entire Mauna Kea science
12 reserve, the access road above Hale Pohaku, and the mid-level
13 area at Hale Pohaku.

14 The legislature also finds that Mauna Kea is public land
15 and has substantially increased in popularity over the years,
16 especially among tourists and recreationists. The realignment
17 and improvement to Saddle Road, combined with significant social



1 media efforts, are major factors contributing to the rise in
2 popularity of Mauna Kea. As a result, there is increased
3 vehicular traffic to the mountain. This large increase in
4 visitors impacts the environmental and cultural landscape,
5 including trails, the summit region, roads, parking, and public
6 facilities such as the visitor information station and
7 sanitation facilities. Park rangers, whose duties include
8 resource protection and education regarding the significance of
9 the mountain, are increasingly taking on safety and traffic
10 officer roles. Mauna Kea rangers are stepping in to protect the
11 health and well-being of visitors unfamiliar with the hazards
12 associated with high altitudes and instructing visitors on how
13 to drive safely on the steep, unimproved road.

14 The legislature finds that this increase in visitors
15 significantly impacts the resources at Mauna Kea. The
16 university of Hawaii is tasked with providing increased support
17 for resource management programs that include research, long-
18 term resource monitoring, and protection and preservation
19 programs, as well as community outreach and education efforts.

20 The legislature further finds that, as reflected in the
21 comprehensive management plan, the protection of Mauna Kea's



1 cultural, natural, and scientific resources is the primary
2 responsibility of the office of Mauna Kea management.
3 Implementation of the comprehensive management plan includes
4 research to identify, understand, map, and monitor Mauna Kea's
5 resources. While research continues to further identify the
6 biology and dynamics of the physical resources, mapping and
7 assessing the condition and status of the resources over time
8 requires regular and in some cases, annual, monitoring and
9 preparation of reports. Data from this monitoring provides a
10 comprehensive database of the resources that is also an
11 invaluable record of Mauna Kea's unique and special resources
12 for generations to come.

13 The legislature finds that the office of Mauna Kea
14 management's resource management program is growing, and
15 staffing needs to expand accordingly. Currently, the office of
16 Mauna Kea management employs a natural resources program manager
17 who is responsible for a wide variety of tasks, including
18 oversight of research, permit compliance, and review of
19 environmental assessment documents. The natural resources
20 program manager also assists the director with policy
21 development, updating the comprehensive management plan, and



1 outreach and communications. In the past, the office of Mauna
2 Kea management used the assistance of limited-term interns, but
3 this is not a sustainable long-term solution.

4 The legislature finds that the following positions are
5 needed for the office of Mauna Kea management to fulfill the
6 board of land and natural resource's approved resource
7 management mandate contained in the comprehensive management
8 plan:

- 9 (1) A natural resources specialist, to assist in
10 coordinating and executing field work, field reports,
11 and invasive species inspections, as well as updating
12 the comprehensive management plan and participating in
13 outreach activities;
- 14 (2) A geographic information systems database manager, to
15 develop, oversee, maintain, and update a database of
16 the locations and conditions of hundreds of identified
17 Mauna Kea resources and habitat ranges obtained from
18 annual monitoring activities;
- 19 (3) A resources technician, to assist the natural
20 resources specialist and cultural resources program



- 1 manager to implement field data, write reports, and
2 perform other administrative duties;
- 3 (4) A permitting and compliance officer, to ensure that
4 Mauna Kea's compliance with regulations, including any
5 permits;
- 6 (5) A community outreach program manager, to participate
7 in school and community meetings, events, and lectures
8 throughout the State;
- 9 (6) A communication program manager, to communicate the
10 office of Mauna Kea management's stewardship
11 activities, maintain and update the office's website,
12 and prepare and distribute electronic newsletters;
- 13 (7) A communication specialist, to support overall
14 communication activities; and
- 15 (8) A fiscal specialist, to manage the increased fiscal
16 responsibilities and human resource functions
17 resulting from an increase in lease fees, collection
18 of commercial tour operator fees, and potential
19 entrance fees and increase in personnel.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
2 funds to the university of Hawaii for eight full-time equivalent
3 (8.0 FTE) positions within the office of Mauna Kea management.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
6 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
7 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
8 2020-2021 for eight full-time equivalent (8.0 FTE) positions
9 within the office of Mauna Kea management; provided that the
10 positions include each of the following:

- 11 (1) Natural resources specialist;
- 12 (2) Geographic information systems database manager;
- 13 (3) Resources technician;
- 14 (4) Permitting and compliance officer;
- 15 (5) Community outreach program manager;
- 16 (6) Communication program manager;
- 17 (7) Communication specialist; and
- 18 (8) Fiscal specialist.

19 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university
20 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 24 2019



H.B. NO. 1537

Report Title:

UH; Office of Mauna Kea Management; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for (8.0) FTE positions within the Office of Mauna Kea Management.

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