



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 22, 2019 at 12:30 p.m., Room 308

by  
Marcia Sakai  
Interim Chancellor  
and  
Stephanie Nagata  
Director  
Office of Mauna Kea Management  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### HB 1537 HD1 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the committee:

On behalf of the Office Mauna Kea Management (OMKM), thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1537 HD1. OMKM strongly supports this bill. The establishment of positions and corresponding funding are critical to the ongoing and long term management of UH's managed lands on Maunakea.

For the past 18 and half years, OMKM has implemented and executed numerous studies and programs to protect Maunakea's cultural, natural and scientific resources as well as to protect the health and safety of those visiting UH's managed lands on Maunakea. At the time the Office was established in 2000, very little was known about the resources the Office was tasked to protect, prompting the need to first identify and establish baseline references for long-term monitoring of the status of the resources, and conduct studies to better understand the dynamics of the resources.

OMKM, guided by the 2009 Board of Land and Natural Resources approved Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP), has been developing programs called for in the CMP and implementing steps beyond identification and studies of the resources. For example, long-term monitoring of the condition of the resources, including historic properties (archaeological sites), biological and physical resources, invasive species and visitor impacts, require resource staffing and data managers to map and catalogue for retrieval information for use in resource management program development. The CMP also has a number of compliance elements, in particular compliance with DLNR permits for all the facilities, and other projects approved by DLNR, and monitoring and reporting requirements.

Over the past 10 years, the number of visitors to the upper elevations of the Maunakea has increased significantly. These are mainly tourists who are unaware of the cultural and environmental significance of Maunakea. Many are not aware of the health

hazards associated with traveling to nearly 14,000 feet above sea level and the potential to come down with altitude sickness, a life threatening condition. Nor are they aware of the hazards of driving on a steep, unimproved road and the potential harm they can inflict on themselves or others. Finally, they are unaware that emergency response is 30 to 40 minutes or longer, if they are on the summit, and that emergency vehicles are unable to travel quickly as they do on paved roads. Once on the paved road it is about another 45 minutes to reach a medical facility.

Clearly, education and outreach programs are necessary to raise awareness to help protect the resources, and inform the uninitiated about Maunakea. Social media has created communication challenges and requires immediate responses to curtail and correct misinformation that is broadcast to the world as well as to disseminate vital information to the public. Expansion of communication, education and outreach programs with the local community and visitors are an important aspect of OMKM's stewardship responsibilities.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 6:53:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Leeward Planning Conference	Support	No

Comments:

Everyone is in agreement that Mauna Kea is very important from multiple perspectives including and not limited to - culture, environment, science, education, economic, and social, as well as, spiritual.

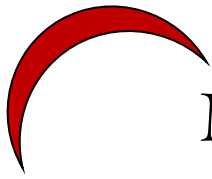
Charged with addressing the many, layered stewardship challenges of Mauna Kea, the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) is doing a commendable job, including correcting errors of the past in managing and protecting Mauna Kea.

We humbly seek approval of HB1537 HD1 to provide OMKM with the additional funding and personnel required, to meet their own and the community's expectations, to protect and manage our beloved mauna.

Respectfully,

Jacqui Hoover, President and COO

Hawai'i Leeward Planning Conference



# Maunakea Observatories

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

From: Maunakea Observatories

**RE: HB 1537 HD1 Relating to the Office of Mauna Kea Management – In support**

Date: February 22, 2019; 12:30 p.m.; Conference Room 308; Agenda #2

The Maunakea Observatories express their strong **support** for HB 1537 HD1 which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for an unspecified number of FTE positions within the Office of Mauna Kea Management. The eight requested positions include a new natural resource specialist, permitting and compliance officer, community outreach program manager, and others. Combined with existing staff, these additional staff will reinforce core OMKM capabilities in place now, and expand OMKM's ability to keep up with future challenges.

The important work performed 365 days a year by OMKM helps ensure everything from Comprehensive Management Plan compliance to sustaining environmental and cultural programs to providing public safety on Hawai'i's highest roads. The OMKM Ranger program, in particular, provides the public with information about Maunakea's fragile environment, helps stranded visitors, and makes sure that the hundreds of culturally sensitive sites around the summit of Maunakea are protected. We applaud OMKM's demonstrated and award winning stewardship on Maunakea, made possible by the dedication of the relatively small team in place now that is tasked with an enormous range of responsibilities. An unintended consequence of the new DK1 Highway is that the number of visitors driving to Maunakea has grown to enormous numbers in recent years, now averaging around 250,000 people annually. UH is advancing new Administrative Rules to help manage this complex situation, but with those new rules will come even more liens on OMKM's limited staff. Given these increasing demands on OMKM's staff, and the vital role OMKM plays in managing this fragile resource, the Maunakea Observatories strongly endorse expanding OMKM's staff through this legislation and ask for your favorable consideration in appropriating \$500,000 for each of the fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.

Mahalo,

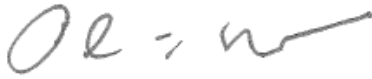
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Director Doug Simons, Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope



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Director Pierre Martin, Hoku Kea Observatory



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Director Paul Ho, James Clerk Maxwell Telescope (East Asian Observatory)



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Director Walter Briske, Long Baseline Observatory



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Director John Rayner, NASA Infrared Telescope Facility



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Director Michitoshi Yoshida, Subaru Telescope



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Director Klaus Hodapp, UKIRT



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Director Hilton Lewis, W.M. Keck Observatory (Keck I and Keck II)



February 21, 2019

RE: HB1537 HD1 RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT

Dear Representative Luke and the House Committee on Finance,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce is in strong support of HB1537 HD1 RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT that appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i for an unspecified number of full-time equivalent positions within the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM).

Maunakea is a significant site scientifically, culturally and economically for our island. The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce supports the current Maunakea management structure with the OMKM and believe this office needs more resources to effectively carry out its responsibilities. This includes positions for a natural resources specialist, geographic information systems database manager, resources technician, permitting and compliance officer, community outreach program manager, communication program manager, communication specialist and fiscal specialist as stated in HB1537 HD1. These positions will aid OMKM in providing safe and educational experiences for those visiting the mountain along with preserving the cultural and natural resources of the area. In addition, managing communications, especially social media, is key in better preparing Maunakea visitors along with educating the public about the mountain.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization with nearly 500 member businesses that represent a wide range of industries in the private, non-profit and public sectors in the Kona and Kohala districts on the West side of the island of Hawai'i. Our members range in size from small businesses with less than 10 employees to large corporations with over 1000 employees. Since 1968, our organization has provided leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy J. Laros". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "W".

Wendy J. Laros

Executive Director, Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 7:14:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	Support	No

Comments:

***Incorporated in 1984, the Hawai`i Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB) 4, is a private, member-based 501(c)3 organization committed to economic strengthening and diversification, education, and workforce development for Hawai`i Island. Since incorporation, HIEDB has been a consistent and credible advocate for our island community.***

***We wholly support the importance of Mauna Kea from multiple perspectives including and not limited to - culture, environment, science, education, social, spiritual, as well as, economic.***

***The Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) has worked tirelessly to address the many needs, expectations and challenges to manage and protect Mauna Kea. Moving forward, it is critically important that they be provided with adequate funding and personnel to continue.***

***We humbly seek approval of HB1537 HD1 to provide OMKM with the additional funding and personnel required, to meet their own and the community's expectations, to protect and manage our beloved mauna.***

***Respectfully,***

***Jacqui Hoover, Executive Director and COO***

***Hawai`i Island Economic Development Board***

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 9:43:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David S. De Luz, Jr.	David S. De Luz, Sr. Enterprises, Inc.	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 9:33:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeanne Yagi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for your continued support of HB1537.

Thank you for this opportunity to note our support/

Jimmy and Jeanne Yagi

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:49:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Miyahira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 3:52:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke,

I support HB 1537. It would be beneficial to fund 8 full time positions for OMKM to help malama Maunakea. OMKM has done an excellent job of managing the mountain, given the overwhelming challenges surrounding the mountain, the requested positions would greatly assist OMKM carry out its stewardship responsibilities as it continues to develop long-term programs to malama the mountain.

Please support this important bill.

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2019 5:28:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gordon Takaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full SUPPORT of HB1537.

The Office of Maunakea Management (OMKM) does a great job with limited resources and authority of managing the mountain. The advent of social media and the ever increasing curiosity of younger generations has created a tremendous increase of visitors who are not always well informed. This creates a critical need to educate them about the significance of Maunakea. Traditional communication through social media is not sufficient in educating people. Countering social media requires full time dedicated staff to respond to and correct mis-information.

I respectfully ask you to please fund the much needed positions. OMKM programs generate a lot of data about the resources and managing the data is critical to keeping track of the status of the resources into the future. OMKM takes this responsibility very seriously but needs appropriate staffing to be effective as we move forward.

Please pass HB1537 forward with a favorable recommendation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 6:33:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Charlene Iboshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Charlene Iboshi. I support House Bill 1537. As a life-long resident of Hawaii Island, I recognize the importance of Mauna Kea. Not only does it link the past through the Hawaiian culture, but, presently, it is recognized as one of the world's best sites for astronomy and science, with its economic, social and educational community benefits. For the future, Mauna Kea will be a "living lab" on how to best manage and balance the many "competing interests" that have been identified in the past decade.

Some criticism, in the past, was based upon poor management. These concerns have been and are being addressed by the Office of Mauna Kea Management for the designated areas under the UH management. However, with growing demands on Mauna Kea, adequate personnel funding, as requested and detailed in past hearing testimony, are needed to manage Mauna Kea as one of the "gems" of the world.

With the fiscal obligations and many needs of the state, I would recommend that there be creation of the positions. If funding cannot be provided for all the positions, then a block of funding be "rolled out" based on the prioritization of OMKM.

Please pass House Bill 1537, HD 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 8:25:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Strongly Support HB1537. When the OMKM process was created we did not have social media, we did not have the number of permits being issued by DLNR for variety of access reasons. I have been very actively involved in the invasive species irradiation on Mauna Kea. OMKM needs more assistance. Please pass this HB 1537 for increased positions and increased funding. Thank you for this opportunity to care for Mauna Kea! Mary Begier

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 9:25:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ross Wilson Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support!

These positions will enable the Office of Maunakea Management to fulfill its mission to malama Maunakea.

Mahalo for your kokua!

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 10:15:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roberta Chu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill which will provide additional funds to University of Hawaii for OMKM to properly fulfill its duties in managing Maunakea. While there is need for the new 8 full-time equivalent positions, the amended \$500,000 for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 will provide additional support to evaluate and determine appropriate staffing needs.

The increasing number of visitors and activity on the mountain is making it challenging for OMKM staff to maintain a safe environment. This funding will further enable OMKM to continue its outstanding stewardship of Maunakea.

Respectfully submitted,

Roberta Chu



**Barry K. Taniguchi**  
**P.O. Box 4353, Hilo Hawai'i 96720**  
**Phone (808) 987-9583**  
**E-mail: [barry\\_taniguchi@ktasuperstores.com](mailto:barry_taniguchi@ktasuperstores.com)**

Aloha Chair Luke and House Committee on Finance members,

Support of HB 1537

I strongly support HB 1537 which funds several additional positions for the Office of Maunakea Management. The establishment of positions and corresponding funding are critical to the ongoing and long term management of UH's managed lands on Maunakea.

I believe and have supported astronomy on Maunakea since becoming involved in developing a management plan for the mountain in 2000. Since then, we have all worked hard to ensure protection and resource management are in balance with growing astronomical industry. As interest grows, so does the number of visitors to the mountain.

We need additional assistance to educate and inform our visitors of the cultural and environmental significance of Maunakea. Please support this important piece of legislation to further assist OMKM's resource management programming and to fulfill the BLNR's approved resource management mandate found within the Comprehensive Management Plan.

Thank you for your time,

Barry K. Taniguchi

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 4:37:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Ueda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Visiting the summit of Mauna Kea has grown in popularity in recent years. The Office of Mauna Kea Management needs additional resources to manage the growth in visitors and to provide safe access to this natural resource.

# Pana'ewa Hawaiian Home Lands Community Association

P.O. Box 4788 ♦ Hilo, Hi 96720 ♦ Telephone: 808-315-2141 ♦ Email: phhlca@aol.com

## Testimony

**LATE**

House Committee on Finance Friday, February 22, 2019 at 12:30 p.m., Room 308

### HB 1537 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullens, and members of the committee:

Madame Chair and Vice Chair, We of Pana'ewa Hawaiian Home Lands Community Association (PHHLCA), thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1537. PHHLCA strongly supports this bill, we support the provision of funding 8 positions for the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM), we support the future reparation with expanded administration for the mountain, and we advocate in the continual work with CPM's long-term plan by OMKM on the mountain.

PHHLCA in alliance with Perpetuating Unique Educational Opportunities (PUEO) has and continue to the advocacy of our children(s) wellbeing on the homestead, it is here with PUEO on educational pathways from the sea to the mountain (ahupua'a) is with cultural and scientific intelligent discoveries for the future of our progenies.

We hope with the passing of HB 1537 before your committee, work on the mountain with OMKM and our alliance with PUEO will bring a brighter future for conservation, for education, and for the next generation to one day be part of the staff on the mountain in their chosen discipline.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond towards a much-needed subsidy for OMKM.

William "Bill" Brown  
President of PHHLCA

*"To establish a viable & strong Hawaiian community through education & respect for our cultural heritage and stewardship of the aina & its people"*

Dear Chair Sylvia Luke and Committee Members:

**LATE**

From: Christoph Baranec of Hilo, Hawai'i

Friday, 22 February 2019

**I support HB1537 HD1.**

I am a faculty member at the Hilo branch of UH Manoa's Institute for Astronomy. I live and work in Hilo.

I support HB1537 HD1 that will expand the ability of the Office of Maunakea Management (OMKM) to fulfill their mission of responsible stewardship of Maunakea. OMKM was established in 2000, as directed in the Master Plan, to responsibly steward the land use and activities on the UH managed public lands of Maunakea. Since its beginning, OMKM initiated the information gathering and research necessary to monitor the precious natural and cultural resources that exist on Maunakea. They executed a comprehensive permitting processes for group visits/special requests, film permits, scientific fieldwork, any proposed external changes to grounds, signs, facilities, etc. They run the ranger program that helps to keep all visitors to Maunakea safe. And many other programs, to which I refer you to the 2009 Maunakea Comprehensive Management Plan.

The funding from this bill will enable:

- Strengthening of OMKM's stewardship responsibilities and the development of additional long term management programs.
- Education of tourists about the significance of Maunakea and how to visit safely.
- Countering mis-information about Maunakea and management on social media.
- Long-term archiving of Maunakea's resources and management data.
- Additional BLNR permit compliance efforts that are necessary to ensure continued preservation of the resources and safety of those visiting the mountain.

Mahalo no kou manawa,

Christoph Baranec

**LATE**

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 6:28:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James R. Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Hawaii House of Representatives Aloha!

Aloha!

I am strongly in favor of this bill.

By any objective perspective, it seems clear that the Office of Maunakea Management has taken deliberate, reasonable, significant, and balanced steps, including many community groups, many professional experts in relevant fields, and the public at large, to craft an evolving program to ensure that the various involved communities, and the larger public, are heard, and that their desires are seriously considered. All of this has been to find a reasonable balance among the various communities. Despite the difficult challenges, these growing efforts have made great strides forward on a what, no doubt, will be a never ending journey (as it should be) as times and needs shift.

From a program management perspective, developing a sound plan – and then executing it – are two somewhat different processes, requiring an evolution of the range of skills and workers, as the work shifts from planning to realization. And, this takes money, if the planned results are to be best realized.

Aside from developing the plans, it is clear that permitting activities are planned for to provide understandable approaches to managing the various issues. Compliance with these permits will be necessary to ensure continued preservation of the resources and safety of those visiting the mountain.

May I add that, personally, I have been a small player in this long-term process, especially in the first few years of the OMKM program.

I was honored when Sen. Inouye invited me to serve as the first person from the Hawai'i Island astronomy community to be the original Maunakea Management Board member, charged with opening communication to the variety of astronomy perspectives. I suspect that this was a reflection of my similar roles with the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce board for a decade (and its president for a year), the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board, Hawaii Island United Way board, and for a number

of years, vice chair for the County of Hawai'i Workforce Development Board, and perhaps my more than 21 years as a member of the Hilo Rotary Club.

I urge you to support HB1537 HD1 toward this goal.

Aloha,

James (Jim) Kennedy, Ph.D.

**LATE**

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 6:36:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Douglass Adams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 8:09:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick L. Kahawaiolaa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and honorable members of the LAB, FIN,

I'm writing to support HB 1537, in part to appropriate funds to hire unspecified FTE employees for the OMKM to continue to properly manage the public land trust. I can be reached for further info



**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 10:51:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM



<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrew Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The stewardship of the mountain needs to improve dramatically especially with all of the controversy surrounding it., We need eyes, ears and positive energy on the ground ensuring that we are managing this most precious and sacred place so that it can be enjoyed by all for many generations.

**LATE**

**HB-1537-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 5:28:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2019 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julie Tulang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: