



**W. M. KECK OBSERVATORY**  
Maunakea, Island of Hawai'i

**To: Senate Committee on Water and Land**

Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang  
Senator Angus McKelvey  
Senator Kurt Fevella

**From: Hilton Lewis**

**Director, W. M. Keck Observatory  
Hawai'i**

**Date:** April 3, 2023

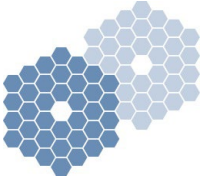
**Subject: SUPPORT for GM542: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD MATSUDA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025.** Testimony scheduled for April 3, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Inouye and members of the committee,

I strongly support Richard Matsuda for confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).

I have worked with Rich for almost 30 years at the W. M. Keck Observatory, and have watched him develop into an exceptional leader. Rich's title is Associate Director for External Relations, and, in this capacity, he leads our community and legislative outreach efforts. He reports directly to me as Director and has both my and our board's full trust as our community ambassador here in Hawai'i. The W. M. Keck Observatory understands the commitment of time and attention that this appointment to the MKSOA requires and is fully supportive of Rich taking on this responsibility.

Rich has been a key person in our successful outreach to the community and has worked patiently for years to make a difference in our relationships with people across the spectrum here in Hawai'i. He demonstrates a deep respect for all relevant points of view, which, along with his expert knowledge of how astronomy works in Hawai'i, makes him particularly effective in building bridges. Rich also plays a vital part in changing mindsets within astronomy to better understand the perspectives of our local



community. In particular, he was an early champion of the possibilities that the MKSOA could realize and is fully committed (as is the Keck Observatory) to making it an unqualified success.

Rich was the unanimous choice of all the Maunakea Observatories (MKO) directors for the MKSOA astronomy representative. All of the MKO directors have confidence that he will do an excellent job representing the astronomy point of view while also working to bridge the divide amongst all who have a stake in Maunakea.

I believe Rich is uniquely qualified for the role, and being a kama'ina, he has a full understanding of the many complexities and different points of view that need to be reconciled.

I urge you to confirm Rich Matsuda to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Sincerely,

Hilton Lewis  
Director  
W. M. Keck Observatory



**To:** Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water and Land

**From:** The Directors of:  
Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope  
East Asian Observatory (JCMT)  
University of Hawai'i Institute for Astronomy  
W. M. Keck Observatory  
Subaru Telescope  
University of Hawai'i 2.2-meter Telescope  
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility, University of Hawai'i

**Subject: GM 542 - Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD MATSUDA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025 - In Support**

April 3, 2023; 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the committee,

The undersigned Maunakea Observatories' directors appreciate the opportunity to submit our testimony in **strong support** of Richard Matsuda's confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority ("MKSOA"), for a term to expire June 30, 2025. Rich Matsuda was unanimously put forth by the Maunakea Observatories directors as the right representative to fill the Maunakea Observatories' designated seat on the governing board.

The Maunakea Observatories appreciate the legislature's efforts to create the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority through the passing of HB 2024 last session and now through the confirmation process for MKSOA board members. We are in strong support of the MKSOA; together with the University of Hawai'i and many others, we are committed to doing all we can to ensure that this new governing body is successful.

As the Associate Director of External Relations at the W.M. Keck Observatory, Mr. Matsuda has worked at the intersection of astronomy and local communities, creating the foundation for community-based mutual stewardship that the structure of the MKSOA prescribes. His professional experience, including the creation and management of the Kama'aina Connections Program that provides professional development and mentorship for Native Hawaiian and local observatory employees, demonstrates his ability to find common ground and develop solutions that are not only agreeable, but beneficial to all. As a W.M. Keck Observatory employee and member of Maunakea Observatories, Mr. Matsuda has direct insight into the concerns and perspectives of the astronomy community that currently operates telescopes on Mauna Kea, as well as the ability to bring others' concerns and perspectives directly to the telescopes' management and employees.

We also express our support for representation from diverse interests and backgrounds on the MKSOA board. Direct representation from the current operating telescopes allows for clear, productive

communication between the astronomy community and other stakeholders. We also firmly believe that in order for MKSOA to be successful, representation from cultural, environmental, business, government, and University of Hawai'i Institute for Astronomy leadership is also required to truly balance the diversity of interests on Mauna Kea.

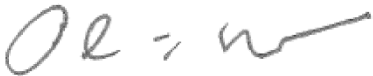
Ultimately, we seek a community-based mutual stewardship model which will allow astronomy to thrive alongside other interests, sensitive to the needs of the local community. Confirmation of Richard Matsuda will move us towards this goal.

Mahalo nui loa,



---

Director Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope



---

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



---

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



---

Director Doug Simons, University of Hawai'i, Institute for Astronomy



---

Director Satoshi Miyazaki, Subaru Telescope, National Astronomical Observatory of Japan



---

Director Mark Chun, University of Hawai'i 2.2-meter Telescope, University of Hawai'i

John T. Rayner

---

Director John Rayner, NASA Infrared Telescope Facility, University of Hawai'i

Klaus Hodapp

---

Director Klaus Hodapp, UKIRT Observatory, University of Hawai'i



# Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo

**Written Testimony of SUPPORT Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
April 3, 2023**

by  
The Hawaiian Civic Club of Hilo

**Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (GM 538, GM 542, GM 543, GM 544)**

Dear Chairperson Inouye and Members of the Committee:

Please accept this testimony in support of the following nominees for the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (SOA).

- Paul Horner, GM 538
- Richard Matsuda, GM 542
- Gary Krug, GM 543
- Kamanamaikalani Beamer, GM 544

Each of these nominees have demonstrated the commitment, knowledge, integrity, and experience necessary to effectively serve on the Mauna Kea SOA. Our membership fully supports their confirmation.

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dorinna H. Cortez".

Dorinna H. Cortez  
Secretary/Treasurer

2106 Kaiwiki Rd  
Hilo, HI 96720  
hccofhilo@gmail.com



March 31, 2023

RE: GM 542 - Gubernatorial Nominee Rich Matsuda for the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

Dear Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

The Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island. With 450 member businesses and organizations, our mission is to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber **strongly supports** the confirmation of nominee Rich Matsuda for the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

We believe that Mr. Matsuda's experience demonstrates a deep understanding of Maunakea's importance to Hawai'i and the world. This includes over 29 years of experience working at W.M. Keck Observatory. Its twin telescopes are the most scientifically productive optical and infrared telescopes in the world. For several years, he provided leadership as the Chief of Operations ensuring organizational functions of the telescopes, managing staff and working with the community.

Since 2022, he took on the role of Associate Director of External Relations where he engages in government and community relations. This includes being a member of Maunakea Observatories, a collaboration of non-profit, independent institutions with telescopes located on Hawai'i Island.

Mr. Matsuda knows that in order for the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority to be successful, representation from astronomy, culture, environment, education, business and government is required to truly reflect and balance the diversity of interests on Maunakea. On several occasions, we've witnessed Mr. Matsuda clearly communicating the complexities surrounding the mauna. With a humble approach, he creates space for respectful, genuine dialogue for stakeholders with varied perspectives. He's masterful at guiding mutual understanding to build relationships and support collective interests.

Please confirm Rich Matsuda to serve on the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy J. Laros". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO  
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce



# Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-7178  
Fax: (808) 961-4435  
E-mail: [admin@hicc.biz](mailto:admin@hicc.biz)  
[www.hicc.biz](http://www.hicc.biz)

March 28, 2023

**Executive Officer**  
Miles Yoshioka

**2022-2023  
Board of Directors**

*President*  
Doug Simons

*President-Elect*  
Randy Kurohara

*Vice President*  
Keith Marrack

*Treasurer*  
Lara Sonoda

*Immediate Past President*  
David Bock

**Directors**  
Kehau Amarin  
Kapaalani Comstock  
Tyler Dickinson  
Dean Fuke  
Marissa Harman  
Bonnie Irwin  
Daniel Kea  
Tyson Klask  
Warren Lee  
Rhea Lee-Moku  
Dennis Lin  
Ben Mark  
Geoli Ng  
Lynn Nuniez  
Lisa Shiroma  
Rachel Solemsaas  
James Staub  
Toby Taniguchi  
James Tyrin  
Kevin Waltjen  
Kurt Williams  
Ashley Yamamoto  
Garth Yamanaka  
Tracie Yoshimoto

State Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Re: GM542

Letter of Support for RICH MATSUDA to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority Board

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce wholeheartedly supports the confirmation of Rich Matsuda as the Maunakea Observatories' representative on the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).

Rich has been an active and vital member of our Chamber for years including serving as a member of our Government Affairs Committee. We have counted on Rich's experience working on Maunakea to bridge-build between the Maunakea Observatories and our community through his heartfelt communications and authentic vision for the future of Maunakea astronomy. His knowledge of community-related issues, especially those related to astronomy, has been invaluable and his willingness to educate our leadership on those issues has helped our organization make sound and well informed decisions.

Through Rich's exceptional communication skills and his ability to understand the nuanced and complex issues surrounding Maunakea the different lenses that ground community-based mutual stewardship are being laid. That perspective will be essential for the MKSOA Board to succeed.

Rich is known as a person of great integrity and he is highly respected in the astronomy industry and more broadly our Hawai'i Island community. He is one who not only advocates for what is best for our island but is willing to work for it. We are pleased to offer him our support.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshioka  
Executive Officer

**LATE**



Senator Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon Elefante, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water and Land

Monday, April 3, 2023  
1:00 p.m.; Conference Room 229

**RE: GM 542 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Gubernatorial Nominee, RICHARD MATSUDA, for a term to expire 06-30-2025 – IN SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Elefante and members of the committee:

It is with great pleasure that I submit this testimony in strong support of the nomination of Rich Matsuda to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority ("MKSOA"), for a term to expire June 30, 2025.

Rich is highly qualified to serve on the Authority. He has 29 years of experience at the W.M. Keck Observatory in leadership positions, extensive knowledgeable of the complex issues and diverse interests on Mauna Kea, and is committed to working collaboratively with other members and stakeholders to ensure the Authority is successful. I have had the pleasure of working with Rich for several years and have found him to be thoughtful, fair, and balanced in his approach to problem solving. He has integrity and is sensitive to cultural and community values.

As Rich has a genuine commitment to doing what is best for Mauna Kea, astronomy and the community, your favorable action on his confirmation is respectfully requested. The MKSOA and the State of Hawaii will be well served by his participation. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments in support.

Sincerely,

Lori Lum  
98-1008 Piku Place  
Aiea, HI 96701

March 29, 2023

Dr. John M. O'Meara  
64-1068A Mamalahoa Highway  
Kamuela, HI 96743

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair  
and  
Members of the Senate Committee  
on Water and Land

Chair Inouye and members of the committee,

I am writing to you today in strong support of the confirmation of Richard Matsuda to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, and to continue my strong personal and professional support of the MKSAO as it begins its work.

For over four years, I have worked directly with Rich in my capacity as Chief Scientist and Deputy Director of the W.M. Keck Observatory, where Rich now serves as the Associate Director of External Relations. I have directly witnessed, in action, the qualities Rich would bring to the MKSOA: a deep sense of kuleana to mission, dedication to seeing things done, embrace of all perspectives, and strong leadership. I trust Rich's judgement because I know he thinks deeply and carefully when a topic is difficult, multi-faceted, consequential, or combination of all three.

Since the events on Maunakea of 2019, I have watched Rich embody the spirit that underpins the MKSOA: a commitment to mutual stewardship and reciprocal, not transactional, relationships. Rich has consistently risen up as a leading voice for mutual stewardship, listening, and learning, often at risk to his personal and professional relationships, given the diverse and strong opinions on Maunakea. He was a member of the Working Group whose work led to Act 255 establishing the MKSOA, so he knows already how to work together with many perspectives. He opens his door to everyone, and does not shy from making tough decisions. He has the respect of the leadership of the facilities that operate on Maunakea, and brings a deep historical and cultural knowledge to the discussion at the MKSOA.

Personally, I can testify that Rich is passionate about seeing a bright, shared future for Maunakea, and believe deeply that the MKSOA can succeed with his participation as we move forward. I give him my strongest possible endorsement, and hope that you vote to confirm his nomination.

With aloha,



John M. O'Meara  
Kamuela, Hawai'i

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 8:19:03 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
john komeiji	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the confirmation of Richard Matsuda to the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.

Since September 2022, the members of the Authority have focused on establishing the structure and framework for this new State agency. Along with others, Mr. Matsuda has had to learn about the many steps that must be undertaken to stand-up this important organization. Further, as the Authority currently has no employees, Authority Board members have had to undertake operational tasks that typically are undertaken by paid staff to move us toward our operational goals.

Based upon my experience and discussions with these members, I have no doubt that he will continue to: be focused and engaged; express and consider differing perspectives; and most importantly, foster a “mutual stewardship paradigm in which ecology, the environment, natural resources, cultural practices, education and science are in balance and synergy” (Act 255). As a result, I highly support the confirmation of Mr. Matsuda.

Mahalo for permitting me the opportunity to express my support.

John Komeiji

Chair Designee, Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/31/2023 2:38:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noe Noe Wong-Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

Please accept this testimony in support of Rich Matsuda, representative of the Maunakea Observatories on the MKSOA. I have gotten to know Rich over the last 3 years, particularly as a member of the Mauna Kea Working Group and more recently as a member of the MKSOA. In addition, I have co-presented with Rich at a number of forums in our community and with astronomy groups to talk about our experience with the working group and Act 255 which established the MKSOA. Rich is an important representative of the Mauna Kea Observatories on the authority. I urge you to recommend confirmation of Rich Matsuda to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority.  
Mahalo.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 4/1/2023 11:44:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
KATHERINE ROSEGUO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support Rich Matsuda on MKSOA. At least there is one astronomer. I wish there were more.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 4:36:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christoph Baranec	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A professional astronomer with knowledge of the field nationally and internationally would be preferred over a PR rep.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 4:40:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Jean	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Richard Matsuda is far too passive to sit on the MKSOA. He rarely, if ever, stands up for his own stance and only ever seems to go along with what others say. MKSOA needs an astronomy representative who is not afraid to say their part, and Richard Matsuda isn't that representative.

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 3/30/2023 10:58:38 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO.



**LATE**

**GM-542**

Submitted on: 4/2/2023 7:22:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 4/3/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Tokunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an Emeritus Astronomer at UH Manoa and after 36 years of service I am very familiar with the issues surrounding Maunakea and astronomy.

I would like express my strong support for Rich Matsuda to be approved as a member of the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. He has very deep community ties on the Big Island. Although he works for the Keck Observatory he understands and has great empathy for the native Hawaiian community.

I can't imagine anyone who is better equipped to tackle the many difficult issues facing the MKSOA and the Big Island community. He has worked tirelessly to find solutions at the human level in which personal connections and mutual understanding is the key. This I believe is one and most important things we can do to make progress as a community and Rich is a master in doing this.

Respectfully,

Alan Tokunaga