



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on  
Higher Education and Water and Land  
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by  
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SB 3090 Proposed SD1 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT

Chairs Kahele and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Kim and Gabbard, and members of the committees:

On behalf of the Office Mauna Kea Management (OMKM), thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 3090 Proposed SD1.

OMKM continuously seeks to enhance and advance its management of the University's managed lands on Maunakea, just as this bill seeks good stewardship of Maunakea. However good intentioned this bill is, however, OMKM finds that in its current iteration the bill does not establish the right model for stewardship of Maunakea.

Briefly, the bill does not establish better mechanisms for better stewardship of Maunakea. As proposed the bill does not: 1) provide clear reasons that support the need for the establishment of a new management authority for Maunakea; 2) describe the purpose, mandate, objectives and goals of this authority; 3) demonstrate how this new authority will be self-sustaining while protecting cultural, natural and scientific resources; and 4) show how a new management authority with no clear direction will be better than what currently exists. Finally, this bill is overly broad in that it provides sweeping authority to a management agency that has no built-in checks and balances.

OMKM works diligently to protect the cultural, natural and scientific resources on Maunakea. It does so not by carrying out the wishes and demands of the University, but to the contrary, OMKM employs a collaborative management structure that is community-based and community driven by volunteers who live on the Big Island and who understand, are sensitive to and concerned about Maunakea. Just as astronomy on the mountain began as an initiative by the Big Island community, so is the management of the mountain. The management of Maunakea since the year 2000 is under the direction and guidance of the Maunakea Management Board (MKMB) and

native Hawaiian Kahu Ku Mauna Council, both composed of volunteers from the Big Island community. Contentions that the University continues to mismanage the mountain unfairly denigrates the community members who dedicate countless hours of their time and effort to see that Maunakea is properly managed.

OMKM has and will continue to work collaboratively with all community, executive and legislative stakeholders concerned with proper management of the mountain. Respectfully, however, we do not support SB 3090 proposed SD1, in its current form given the above concerns.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.