Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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HCR 314 HD1
REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REVIEW AND REPORT ON THE
LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF OBSERVATORY SITES ON THE SUMMIT OF
MAUNA KEA

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Inouye and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii and its Institute for Astronomy (IfA) support House Concurrent
Resolution No. 314 HD1. Astronomy has become one of the university's most
successful science programs and the IfA one of the most respected astronomical
institutions in the world. The Mauna Kea and Haleakala Observatories form the premier
observatory complex in the world. Astronomy at UH is a pillar of excellence and a major
contributor to the state's economy.

In order to retain the world leadership in astronomical research and education the
development of new facilities with unprecedented astronomical capability is a most
important priority for UH. However, the university also acknowledges that a balance
between the support for science and respect for cultural and environmental needs is
required and that a limit must be placed on future development of Mauna Kea. HCR 314
HD1 is therefore in agreement with the university's intentions for the future of astronomy
in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.