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Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

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by

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SR 79 – ESTABLISHING A SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE APPROPRIATE LEASE RENT FOR THE MAUNA
KEA SUMMIT LANDS

Chair Hee, Chair Hanabusa, and Members of the Committees:

The purpose of this measure is to convene a special Senate committee to study the
leasing of public lands comprising the Mauna Kea Summit to determine the appropriate
amount of lease rent that the University of Hawai‘i and others should pay to the State for
rent of the Mauna Kea Summit.

The University of Hawai‘i has two points to make on this legislation:
  1. This issue of appropriate revenue/rate determination for Mauna Kea should be
     addressed in the context of a universal settlement on ceded lands between the
     State of Hawai‘i and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. The University further
     believes that the determination of increased rates can be tied to extending the
     lease terms e.g. lengthening the lease term; and
  2. The sub-leases to individual telescope operators are legal and fall within the
     scope of the master lease between the University of Hawai‘i and the Department
     of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.