



UNIVERSITY
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**House Committee on Water and Land
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
House Committee on Finance
Saturday, February 19, 2022 9:00 a.m.**

**Testimony by:
Randolph Moore, Chair, Board of Regents**

H.B. No. 2024 – RELATING TO MAUNA KEA

Chairs Tarnas, Nakashima, and Luke; Vice Chairs Branco, Matayoshi, and Yamashita; and members of the Committees:

The Board of Regents (“Board”) opposes H.B. No. 2024 which seeks to establish the Mauna Kea Stewardship Authority as the sole managing authority for state-managed lands on Mauna Kea.

On February 17, 2022, the Board considered and discussed H.B. No. 2024 relative to the University of Hawai‘i (“University”) which has operated and managed the Mauna Kea Science Reserve (“MKSR”), a scientific complex constructed to establish astronomy in Hawai‘i, and its associated lands since 1968. The Board also continues to exercise its oversight of the University’s actions with respect to the MKSR, most recently adopting, by a majority vote, a new Master Plan for the University’s Maunakea Lands on January 20, 2022, while concomitantly expressing its belief that many of the underlying issues related to Mauna Kea are beyond the control of the University and will only be addressed through community efforts.

While the Board understands the concerns raised about the University’s overall management of Mauna Kea lands under its jurisdiction in the past, the University is the only entity currently in existence with the capacity to effectively and efficiently manage the MKSR and the most capable steward for the Mauna Kea lands under the University’s jurisdiction. As such, the Board respectfully opposes passage of H.B. No. 2024.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to H.B. No. 2024.