



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Water and Land and Hawaiian Affairs  
Monday, March 18, 2019, at 2:45 p.m.

By

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and

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SCR 214/SR 173 – SUPPORTING THE 'IMILOA ASTRONOMY CENTER TO FURTHER ITS ROLE IN DEVELOPING AND LEADING EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS CONCERNING THE CULTURAL, NATURAL, AND HISTORIC RESOURCES ON MAUNA KEA AT HALE POHAKU AND ENCOURAGING THE TRANSFER OF EDUCATION OUTREACH AT THE HALE POHAKU TO THE 'IMILOA ASTRONOMY CENTER

Chairs Kahele and Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 214/SR 173 in support of the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center ('Imiloa). The University of Hawai'i recognizes the critical need to enhance 'Imiloa's role in developing and leading educational efforts at Halepohaku concerning the cultural, natural, and historic resources on Maunakea. The University of Hawai'i also appreciates the legislature's acknowledgement of the various partnerships that 'Imiloa has led.

Under 'Imiloa's leadership, a project is currently underway to create new educational displays for the Onizuka Center for International Astronomy at the Maunakea Visitor Information Station (VIS). The new displays are expected to be installed for public viewing in the coming months, after further development and consultation. 'Imiloa has also begun providing training to VIS staff, and efforts are ongoing to share experience and expertise between these groups. This effort is further strengthening working relationships among 'Imiloa and other UH and related organizations operating on Maunakea, including the Office of Maunakea Management, Maunakea Observatories Support Services, the Institute for Astronomy, and the Maunakea Observatories. These near-term efforts are expected to lead to longer-term educational and outreach

improvements for the VIS, led by 'Imiloa in consultation with the Hawai'i Island community.

'Imiloa is critical to the success of astronomical and cultural advancement for the State of Hawai'i. UH anticipates that 'Imiloa's role in providing educational outreach at Halepohaku regarding the cultural, natural, and historic resources of Maunakea will continue to expand. 'Imiloa is qualified and poised to take on this increased responsibility; and, is critical to the success of astronomical and cultural advancement for the State of Hawai'i. We will continue working internally and with stakeholders to determine what specific organizational changes will be needed to ensure the success of these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.