



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

## TESTIMONY

HB 2860: RELATING TO THE MAUNA KEA SUMMIT

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education and  
House Committee on Water, Land Use and Ocean Resources

02/14/06

by

Gary Ostrander  
Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education  
University of Hawaii at Manoa

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Chair Waters, Chair Kanoho and Members of the Committees:

The purpose of this measure is to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to lease the Mauna Kea summit lands at a reasonable rate that reflects the cultural value of the site as well as requires the University of Hawai'i to rent or lease the Mauna Kea Observatory facilities a reasonable rate that reflects the scientific value of the site.

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.