



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Higher Education  
March 30, 2006  
By  
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HCR 314/HR 248  
REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO REVIEW AND REPORT ON THE  
LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF OBSERVATORY SITES ON THE SUMMIT OF  
MAUNA KEA

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawaii and its Institute for Astronomy (IfA) support House Concurrent Resolution No. 314. 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 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.