



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

REVISED

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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SCR 131 – REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE 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 request that the Office of Hawaiian Affairs convene a task force to study the leasing of public lands comprising 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.