



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Transportation and Government Operations

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by
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SR 79 – ESTABLISHING A SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE APPROPRIATE LEASE RENT FOR THE MAUNA
KEA SUMMIT LANDS

Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Espero, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of this measure is to convene a special Senate committee to study the leasing of public lands comprising the Mauna Kea Summit to determine the appropriate amount of lease rent that the University of Hawai'i and others should pay to the State for rent of 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.