



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
March 25, 2010 at 1:35pm  
by  
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SCR 227/SR 118 – REQUESTING, FOR REVIEW BY THE LEGISLATURE AND THE AUDITOR, AN ACCOUNTING AND REPORT CONCERNING ITEMS OF VALUE, INCLUDING VIEWING TIME ON MAUNA KEA TELESCOPES, PROVIDED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND ITS INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY FOR THE LEASE OR USE OF FACILITIES ON PUBLIC TRUST LANDS ON THE SUMMIT OF MAUNA KEA.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Sakamoto and members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i is pleased to respond to the spirit of resolutions SCR 227/SR 118, which seek to clarify the financial implications of the agreements between the Telescopes located at the summit of Mauna Kea and the University of Hawai'i. There are three “specifics” of the resolutions that we would ask you to reconsider.

First, the resolutions request information and data that goes back to 1968, 32 years ago. We simply do not have such data, nor is such old data particularly germane to the central questions to be answered. We will supply any/all data that addresses the financial implications for the past few years and address any/all questions, to the best of our ability that pertain only to the earlier time period.

Secondly, the resolutions require a University response in 14 days following enactment of the joint resolution. We respectfully request an amended response period to allow us adequate time for a meaningful response.

Thirdly, the University does not agree with all the factual statements presented in the “whereas” statements of the Senate resolution. For instance, UH does not have patents or leasing agreements (with any party) that have produced any income in the field of astronomy. All University patent and leasing income is reported to the Legislature annually—and has been since 1989. In 2010, the University requested \$2.1 million in public funds, to manage the Mauna Kea Science Reserve in keeping with the Comprehensive Management Plan for Mauna Kea submitted for approval to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), not to secure the bid for the Thirty Meter Telescope.

We would be pleased to respond to each of these statements to better seek a common understanding of the central issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.