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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the institute for  
2       astronomy has facilities on Mauna Kea and Haleakala and in Manoa  
3       Valley. The majority of the institute's facilities and  
4       equipment is located on Mauna Kea on Hawaii island, the most  
5       productive astronomy site in the world. Conversely, the  
6       majority of the institute's approximately two hundred employees  
7       are located at the University of Hawaii at Manoa on Oahu.

8       The legislature finds that the University of Hawaii is one  
9       of the most significant economic drivers in the State.  
10      Additionally, it is the State's leading engine for economic  
11      growth and diversification, stimulating the local economy with  
12      jobs, research, and skilled workers.

13      The legislature finds that supporting and growing  
14      industries on neighbor islands is a matter of statewide concern.

15      The legislature finds that the county of Hawaii lags behind  
16      the rest of the State in many key economic indicators. The  
17      Hawaii county unemployment rate is 3.2 per cent while it is two



1 per cent statewide and 17.1 per cent of county residents between  
2 the ages of sixteen and twenty-four are neither employed nor in  
3 school as compared to 10.8 per cent statewide. Additionally,  
4 the Hawaii county median household income is approximately  
5 \$20,000 less than the statewide median and 19.5 per cent of  
6 Hawaii county residents have incomes at or below the poverty  
7 line compared to 10.6 per cent of residents statewide.

8 The purpose of this Act is to stimulate economic growth in  
9 Hawaii county by transferring administrative authority,  
10 personnel, and all facilities for the institute for astronomy  
11 currently located at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to the  
12 University of Hawaii at Hilo.

13 SECTION 2. All rights, powers, functions, and duties of  
14 the University of Hawaii institute for astronomy located at the  
15 University of Hawaii at Manoa as of June 30, 2018 are  
16 transferred to the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

17 All employees who occupy civil service positions and whose  
18 functions are transferred to the University of Hawaii at Hilo by  
19 this Act shall retain their civil service status, whether  
20 permanent or temporary. Employees shall be transferred without  
21 loss of salary, seniority (except as prescribed by applicable



1 collective bargaining agreements), retention points, prior  
2 service credit, any vacation and sick leave credits previously  
3 earned, and other rights, benefits, and privileges, in  
4 accordance with state personnel laws and this Act; provided that  
5 the employees possess the minimum qualifications and public  
6 employment requirements for the class or position to which  
7 transferred or appointed, as applicable; provided further that  
8 subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to applicable  
9 civil service and compensation laws.

10 Any employee who, prior to this Act, is exempt from civil  
11 service and is transferred as a consequence of this Act may  
12 retain the employee's exempt status, but shall not be appointed  
13 to a civil service position as a consequence of this Act. An  
14 exempt employee who is transferred by this Act shall not suffer  
15 any loss of prior service credit, vacation or sick leave credits  
16 previously earned, or other employee benefits or privileges as a  
17 consequence of this Act; provided that the employees possess  
18 legal and public employment requirements for the position to  
19 which transferred or appointed, as applicable; provided further  
20 that subsequent changes in status may be made pursuant to  
21 applicable employment and compensation laws. The director of



1 the University of Hawaii institute for astronomy may prescribe  
2 the duties and qualifications of these employees and fix their  
3 salaries without regard to chapter 76, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

4 SECTION 3. All appropriations, records, equipment,  
5 machines, files, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents,  
6 maps, and other personal property heretofore made, used,  
7 acquired, or held by the University of Hawaii at Manoa relating  
8 to the functions transferred to the University of Hawaii at Hilo  
9 shall be transferred with the functions to which they relate.

10 SECTION 4. The director of the institute for astronomy  
11 shall consult with the chancellor of the University of Hawaii at  
12 Hilo to develop a strategic plan to:

- 13 (1) Promote interest in and awareness of the field of  
14 astronomy and the activity of the institute for  
15 astronomy in particular; and  
16 (2) Increase employment and scholastic opportunities for  
17 residents of the island of Hawaii, including  
18 opportunities relating to astronomy facility  
19 renovation and construction, administrative and  
20 support services, and technical and scientific  
21 activities.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Ch. P. L.

Nicole E. Lowe

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Nadene K. Nakamura

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Sen. Aish

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Hyakushima

JAN 19 2018



**Report Title:**

Institute for Astronomy; University of Hawaii

**Description:**

Transfers administrative authority, personnel, and facilities for the University of Hawaii Institute for Astronomy currently located at the University of Hawaii at Manoa to the University of Hawaii at Hilo.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

