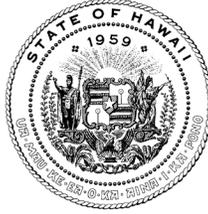


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021  
9:00 AM**

**State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 430**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 544  
RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT  
PROJECT AT MAUNA KEA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII**

House Bill 544 proposes to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for capital improvement project for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), to be expended by the University of Hawaii, to remove the Hoku Kea Telescope from the summit of Mauna Kea. The Department provides the following comment and recommendation.

The summit of Mauna Kea is under a General Lease to the University of Hawaii. The University of Hawaii is responsible for the removal of the Hoku Kea Telescope. The Department does not have an appropriate role as a “pass through” for the University on this matter. The Department respectfully requests that the reference to the Department be removed from the measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Water and Land  
Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

By  
Bonnie Irwin  
Chancellor  
And  
Gregory Chun  
Executive Director  
Center for Maunakea Stewardship  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### HB 544 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT MAUNAKEA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 544. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) writes in support of this bill which seeks to provide capital improvement funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the purposes of the University of Hawai'i to decommission the Hōkū Ke'a telescope from the summit of Maunakea.

This measure is aligned with UH Hilo's plans, pursuant to the direction of the UH Board of Regents, to decommission the Hōkū Ke'a telescope. Decommissioning will include the complete removal of all man-made structures at the Hōkū Ke'a site and bringing the site to as close as feasible to its natural state prior to commission.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and fully support this bill.

**HB-544**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 10:27:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

The telescopes have to be removed. I am commenting that it needs to be done in the most pono way for our Mauna. AND NO OTHER telescopes will be built.

**HB-544**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 12:45:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
KATHERINE ROSEGUO	Individual	Oppose	No

## Comments:

Hoku Kea has been slated to become a teaching telescope at Hale Pohaku. The wording in this bill seems to imply that funds would be used to decommission Hoku Kea completely, instead of using funds to bring it down to Hale Pohaku as a teaching telescope. I am in opposition to Hoku Kea being completely decommissioned. Rather, a bill should be introduced for funding to bring Hoku Kea down to Hale Pohaku and prepare it as a teaching telescope. Imua science and education for everyone!

**HB-544**

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 4:55:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

I am opposed to HB 544. While I am all for the removal of the Hoku Kea telescopes from the summit of Mauna Kea, I believe the University of Hawai'i should bear some of the expense from its own budget.

First, UH waited longer than it should have to decommission telescopes on Mauna Kea adding to the costs. Secondly, I don't believe it was in their "6-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PLAN for fiscal Years 2018-2023 which it should have been. Therefore, UH bears responsibility to take a least a portion of its budget to decommission the telescopes. We need to hold them accountable in some way to always "plan ahead" and "do the right thing".

Thank you for your time

Dee Green