
HOUSE RESOLUTION

CONVENING A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A
GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE FOR MAUNA KEA.

1 WHEREAS, pursuant to article XII, section 4 of the Hawaii
2 State Constitution, the State holds public land as a public
3 trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public; and
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5 WHEREAS, as the trustee of the public land trust, the State
6 has a duty to protect and maintain the trust property and
7 regulate its use; and
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9 WHEREAS, Mauna Kea is public land that is included in the
10 public land trust; and
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12 WHEREAS, since 1968, the University of Hawaii has been
13 responsible for the management of Mauna Kea; and
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15 WHEREAS, the Independent Evaluation of the Implementation
16 of the Mauna Kea Comprehensive Management Plan, prepared for the
17 Department of Land and Natural Resources by Ku'iwalu and
18 published in December 2020, concluded that while the University
19 of Hawaii has effectively implemented most of the management
20 actions related to protecting the natural and cultural resources
21 of Mauna Kea, the management actions designed to respect the
22 Hawaiian cultural practices and resources and conduct education
23 and outreach that were intended to restore trust between the
24 University of Hawaii and the Native Hawaiian community have not
25 been effectively implemented; and
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27 WHEREAS, the report found a lack of genuine consultation
28 with the Native Hawaiian community; and
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30 WHEREAS, the report also found that the lack of genuine
31 consultation with the Native Hawaiian community has resulted in
32 greater mistrust of the University of Hawaii and management of



1 Mauna Kea, leading to polarization between various stakeholders
2 on Mauna Kea and in our communities; and
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4 WHEREAS, this mismanagement, mistrust, and polarization
5 must be reconciled; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
8 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
9 of 2021, that a working group is convened to develop
10 recommendations, building on the findings of the Independent
11 Evaluation of the Implementation of the Mauna Kea Comprehensive
12 Management Plan, for a new governance and management structure
13 for Mauna Kea that collaboratively engages with all
14 stakeholders, particularly the Native Hawaiian community; and
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16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of
17 the following membership:
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- 19 (1) One member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
20 of Representatives, to serve as the chairperson of the
21 working group to facilitate the group to develop a
22 consensus;
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- 24 (2) Three members of the House of Representatives to be
25 appointed by the Speaker of the House of
26 Representatives;
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- 28 (3) Seven members who are Native Hawaiian to be nominated
29 by Native Hawaiian groups, organizations, or
30 communities and appointed by the Speaker of the House
31 of Representatives;
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- 33 (4) One representative from the Office of Hawaiian
34 Affairs;
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- 36 (5) One representative from the Board of Land and Natural
37 Resources;
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- 39 (6) One representative from the University of Hawaii Board
40 of Regents; and
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- 42 (7) One representative from Mauna Kea Observatories; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
2 to take into consideration the Independent Evaluation of the
3 Implementation of the Mauna Kea Comprehensive Management Plan,
4 prepared for the Department of Land and Natural Resources by
5 Ku'iwalu and published in December 2020, when developing the
6 recommendations for a governance and management structure for
7 Mauna Kea; and
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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
10 to submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
11 including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later
12 than December 31, 2021; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the House of
16 Representatives, Chairperson of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
17 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
18 Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii,
19 and Mauna Kea Observatories.
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