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RICH MATSUDA  
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\*ex-officio

## MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

688 Kino'ole Street #212, Hilo, HI 96720  
Telephone (808) 272-0259

Website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/maunakea-authority/>

### TESTIMONY OF THE MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS February 26, 2026 2:00 P.M. State Capitol, Room 325

#### COMMENTS FOR H.B. 2593, HD1 RELATING TO MAUNA KEA

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

The Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) provides the following comments on HB 2593, HD1.

Established by Act 255 (2022), MKSOA was charged with assuming management authority for Mauna Kea lands and implementing a stewardship framework grounded in responsible land management and public accountability. The Authority continues to advance its statutory responsibilities in coordination with state partners.

As drafted, HB 2593, HD1 authorizes MKSOA to extend existing leases and subleases for up to an additional ten-year term. It does not grant new authority for expanded land use or new development; rather, it provides a practical tool to ensure continuity and address unforeseen circumstances within the existing statutory framework.

The Authority remains committed to transparent governance and responsible stewardship consistent with Act 255, with a focus on stable, lawful, and accountable management of these public trust lands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Respectfully,

John Komeiji  
Chairperson, MKSOA



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**  
**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony  
Hō‘ike Mana‘o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha‘ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
February 26, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

By  
Vassilis L. Syrmos, Interim Provost  
University of Hawai‘i Manoa  
and  
Doug Simons, Director  
Institute for Astronomy  
and  
Gregory Chun, Executive Director  
Center for Maunakea Stewardship

HB 2593 HD1 – RELATING TO MAUNA KEA.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai‘i (University) respectfully submits comments related to HB 2593 HD1. The University remains deeply committed to the continued stewardship of Maunakea and continues to work closely with the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) and related working groups to lay the foundation and framework necessary for a successful transition for the management of Maunakea, in accordance with Act 255 (2022).

We support the intent of this bill to create a pathway for the necessary lease extensions, given the otherwise impending expiration of the University’s 65-year master lease with the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and all of the observatory subleases in 2033. As we have indicated in prior testimony, evidence of the State’s commitment to astronomy as a matter of State policy is critically important at this juncture for continued investment by the countries and universities that own and operate the astronomical observatories on Maunakea. And while extension of the leases would be evidence of that support, it is unclear when the lease extensions are intended to occur, a detail that will be important to maintain forward progress. Detailing how and when the lease extensions would be effectuated will provide needed clarity given the impending expiration of the leases in less than eight years.

The University respectfully notes that if the bill leaves unclear when the extension will be provided, a ten (10) year lease extension may be insufficient for the level of investment needed for those astronomy users that are dependent upon outside funding, including international federal funding agencies, to invest long term. The loss of even one observatory increases the cost of stewardship for all those remaining, including the public, the University, and the State.

Another important clarification, which was discussed at the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents' meeting on February 19, 2026, is the range of milestones MKSOA needs to reach for the University to responsibly transfer stewardship of Maunakea lands on or before July 1, 2028. The University encourages the inclusion of meaningful milestones for all parties, including the University, BLNR, and MKSOA, to evaluate timely progress leading up to the July 1, 2028 transition date and beyond, including for the use, management, operations, funding and stewardship of Maunakea lands destined to be transferred to MKSOA. Setting clear, mutually agreed milestones will promote transparent decision making, and trust-building among the many interested stakeholders caring for the mauna.

Of note, there are additional legal requirements to extend the leases prior to the transition date under Act 255 which are not yet addressed and which are more appropriately in the province of the Department of the Attorney General, including: (i) necessary actions by BLNR and the University to execute written lease extensions; and (ii) additional steps to extend the University leases beyond 2033, given the existing restrictions as set forth in HRS §171-36 and HRS §171-95.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB2593 SD1**  
RELATING TO MAUNA KEA

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘okolokolo a me ke Kuleana Hawai‘i  
(House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i  
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Pepeluali 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

2:00 pm

Lumi 325

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Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) respectfully **OPPOSES HB2593 SD1**.

In Act 255 (2022), the Legislature established a structured transition toward a new stewardship framework for Mauna Kea under the direction of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) as a trusted community voice. This bill transfers existing joint holdover powers shared by the University of Hawai‘i and the MKSOA<sup>1</sup> to the MKSOA alone in the form of a “lease extension.”

This shift is unnecessary and potentially undermines the ability of the MKSOA to focus on its existing and primary duties to complete a management plan and determine the framework for environmental review in consultation with the community. Given that this move is unnecessary, and the vital need for the MKSOA to focus on its primary existing scope of work in service of the community, OHA opposes this bill.

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<sup>1</sup> See HRS § (“Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, commencing on July 1, 2022, and until the expiration of the transition period, no new lease shall be issued and no existing lease shall be renewed involving any Mauna Kea lands; provided that, upon the expiration of an existing lease during the transition period, a lessee may continue to hold the land as a holdover, subject to any terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed upon by the authority and University of Hawai.”)

Further, to act so soon to change what was messaged as the Act 255 (2022) reset erodes public accountability and trust. Act 255 deliberately established a transition period to allow new governance structures, processes, and cultural frameworks to be built *before* major land-use decisions were to be made by the MKSOA. The expiration of existing leases, with limited joint holdover authority, was a critical accountability mechanism within that structure that would also allow the MKSOA sufficient time to establish a novel and innovative community based governance structure. By forcing MKSOA to assume sole authority for controversial holdover extensions before full authority vests undermines the important trust building opportunity between MKSOA and the community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. For these reasons, OHA respectfully **OPPOSES** this measure.

February 24, 2026

RE: Support for HB 2593 HD1 Relating to Mauna Kea

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

Founded in 1968, the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce works to enhance the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island. With 460 member businesses and organizations, our mission is to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

Our Chamber supports astronomy in Hawai'i as a formally established policy of the State of Hawai'i. We also recognize Maunakea's cultural significance and support responsible stewardship of its natural resources.

The matter of the Maunakea observatory leases requires a timely resolution. Under current agreements, the observatories are legally obligated to complete facility decommissioning and full site restoration by December 31, 2033, unless new land authorizations are secured. Negotiating and executing these leases is a complex and time-consuming multinational process.

We understand that HB 2593 HDI has been introduced and amended to move toward a solution, and therefore, we support the intent of this measure. However, we express concern that a ten-year lease extension may not provide the level of long-term certainty necessary.

For over six decades, this industry has invested in research, infrastructure, education, and community partnerships in Hawai'i. Hawai'i's astronomy sector is internationally recognized for significant scientific discoveries, a deep commitment to education, and the development of a locally focused workforce pipeline. It also generates economic and community benefits to Hawai'i Island through high-quality jobs and partnerships with a broad network of local contractors and service providers.

Failure to provide long-term stability for the astronomy industry would be devastating to our island and the state. We respectfully urge the Legislature to pursue a durable solution that provides meaningful certainty for astronomy in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,



Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO  
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:09:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Tara's, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of Committee,*

*My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, today we write in total OPPOSITION TO HB2593 HD1. We are standing on Stolen Ground, this land has been occupied and it is not talked about enough. Well lets talk! Enough is enough. The Green Party of Hawai'i is watching and participating with our voices. Mauna Kea is not for sale, no more telescopes, no more, molesting the mountain that was never ours to begin with.*

The fact that this bill is even given a chance to be heard reeks of corruption. It is with Great respect for this land, the people of Hawai'i the culture ,traditions, and future generations that the Green Party of Hawai'i asks that HB2593 HD1, BE HELD.

Not in our name.

*Mahalo,*

*Susan RobertsEmery*

*Green Party of Hawai'i*

*Paauilo*

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:30:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ben Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i member	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I/ we oppose HB 2593, extension or renewal of leases on the sacred land of Mauna Kea.

We need to stop destroying our spiritual resources internally while spending our resources exploring external forces. Mauna Kea is spiritual and sacred; humans must return to the natural world and stop destroying it with the hubris of dominion. Humans need to do this now, if we want future generations to have an inhabitable Earth to live on.

Aloha

Ben Emery

Honoka'a, Big Island

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:37:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauae kekahuna	'O maku'u ke kahua non profit	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

oppose



Testimony to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs on  
**House Bill 2593 HD1**  
**Relating to Mauna Kea**  
Thursday, February 26, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

The undersigned leaders of the Maunakea Observatories **support** HB2593 HD1, related to the leases that allow us to conduct astronomical research on Maunakea.

We support HD1 of this measure because it reaffirms the important role of the Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority (MKSOA) by providing MKSOA the latitude, should it be needed, to adjust the timetable of future land authorizations to ensure that critical decisions are well-informed and thoughtfully considered.

As our observatories continue our work to expand the information about humanity's collective origins on behalf of future generations, we view the establishment of the MKSOA as an important and profound balancing of decision-making authority on Maunakea and embrace the foundational principle of community-led mutual stewardship that the MKSOA represents.

We would like to recognize the work being done at this time across Hawai'i by MKSOA and its team of consultants to develop a transition plan and new management plan for Maunakea in close consultation with the community. We would also like to thank the members of the Hawai'i Island legislative delegation, as well as colleagues from other islands, who have taken the time to deeply understand this issue.

Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Geoff Bower".

Geoff Bower, Director  
East Asian Observatory

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jean-Gabriel Cuby".

Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Director  
Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John O'Meara".

John O'Meara, Deputy Director & Chief Scientist  
W. M. Keck Observatory

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warren Skidmore".

Warren Skidmore, Deputy Director  
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:24:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Christa SMith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am strongly opposed to this bill. No extensions- it's time for open public process. No special exceptions. Your community is watching you for accountability. Mahalo

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:32:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
pahnelopi mckenzie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2593

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:36:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Berlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Protect Mauna Kea.

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:08:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as written.

HB2593 HD1 bypasses long-standing legal and administrative safeguards that apply to Mauna Kea lands. These safeguards exist to protect environmental resources, cultural and historic sites, and the public trust. Any lease, lease extension, or land use approval must require full consideration of environmental impacts, cultural significance, and meaningful public input. Standard procedure includes public notice, the opportunity for testimony, and public hearings before approvals are granted. Consultation with Native Hawaiian organizations and cultural practitioners is necessary to ensure sacred sites and traditional practices are respected.

At a minimum, these protections must be explicitly included in this bill.

The Authority’s powers should be exercised only under an approved management plan developed through public process and Native Hawaiian consultation, with updates required at least every five years.

With respect to permits, land use approvals, and lease extensions, the Authority should review and make recommendations, but all approvals should:

- Comply with Hawai‘i’s Environmental Review Law (HRS Chapter 343), including Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements when required.
- Include consultation with advisory groups, cultural practitioners, and the public as required under HRS §195H-9.

The Authority should maintain advisory groups composed of cultural practitioners, environmental scientists, and community members. All major decisions including land use changes, development projects, and lease extensions should be presented to these advisory groups. Their input should be documented and included in official decision-making records.

All actions must respect Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights under HRS §1-1 and Article XII of the Hawai‘i Constitution. Activities must avoid adverse impacts to sacred sites, natural resources, and public trust lands.

Hawai'i law requires the State to protect natural, cultural, and historic resources. Transferring broad control and extending leases without oversight, environmental review, and enforceable cultural protections risks violating that constitutional duty and undermining the public trust.

This bill should be rewritten to ensure those legal protections.

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:05:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee members

I strongly oppose this bill as written.

**There are many standard legal and administrative processes for Mauna Kea lands that HB2593 HD1 would bypass or violate including:**

**Considering the environmental impact, cultural and historic significance, and public input before approval of any lease, lease extension or permit.**

**Holding public hearings to ensure community and environmental concerns are addressed. Standard procedure includes giving notice to the public, allowing comments, and holding hearings for lease extensions or land use approvals.**

**Consulting with native Hawaiian groups to respect sacred sites and cultural practices.**

**At the very least, those protections should be included in the bill and it should be rewritten to include:**

**Authority Powers and Responsibilities**

The Authority may exercise **certain powers over Mauna Kea lands only in accordance with an approved management plan**, developed with public and Native Hawaiian community consultation, and updated at least every five years.

### **Permits, Land Use, and Lease Approvals**

The Authority may **review and recommend permits, land use approvals, and lease extensions**, but all approvals must:

- Comply with **Environmental Review Law (HRS chapter 343)**, including Environmental Assessments (EA) or Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) as required.
- Include consultation with **advisory groups, cultural practitioners, and the public** as required under HRS §195H-9.

### **Advisory Groups and Public Consultation**

The Authority shall **maintain advisory groups** consisting of cultural practitioners, environmental scientists, community members, and other relevant stakeholders.

- **All major decisions, including land use changes, development projects, and lease extensions**, must be presented to advisory groups **for consultation**.
- Advisory group input must be **documented and included in all decision-making reports**.

### **Cultural and Environmental Protections**

- The Authority must ensure that **all actions respect Native Hawaiian cultural and religious practices**, consistent with HRS §1-1, Article XII of the Hawai'i Constitution, and established case law.
- All activities must **avoid adverse impacts** to sacred sites, natural resources, and public trust lands.

**Hawaii law requires the state to protect natural, cultural, and historic resources. Transferring full control and extending leases without oversight could violate this duty.**

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:44:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Marquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

Please OPPOSE HB 2593. We do NOT need nor do we want an added 10 year lease extention for our Mauna. We will NOT stop protecting Mauna ā Wākea.

Mahalo,

Malia Marquez

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:21:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pua Case	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am oppoing HB2593 regarding ten year extensions on Mauna Kea leases.

This bill needs another rewrite that includes the need for an approved management plan developed with the public and Native Hawaiian consultation in order for the Authority to exercise certain powers over Mauna Kea lands and there must be an update every five years.

Regarding Permits, Land Use and Lease Approvals, all approvals must comply with Environmental Law (HRS Chapter 343) including Environmental Assessments, or Environmental Impact Statements as required and must include consultation with advisory groups, cultural practitioners and the public as required under HRS S195H-9.

As for Advisory Groups and Public Consultation, the Authority shall maintain advisory groups consisting of cultural practitioners, environmental scientists and community members and all major decisions incuding land use changes, development projects, and lease extensions must be presented to advisory groups and the public for consultation.

To propose this legislation is a direct insult to those who work diligently to ensure that protections are in place for Mauna Kea,

I oppose HB 2593 as a kanaka maoli, a community member and a Protector of Mauna Kea.

B. Pua Case

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:02:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**OPPOSE**

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:51:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suzanne Kaulia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am standing in opposition to this bill!

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:23:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sierra Mcveigh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Chair Hashem and Members,

Hawaii Revised Statutes 171-36 cites a number of provisions which are in direct conflict with this bill, and without changes to the HRS/administrative rules this proposed lease extension would be out of compliance.

§171-36 Lease restrictions; generally. (a) Except as otherwise provided, the following restrictions shall apply to all leases:

- (1) Options for renewal of terms are prohibited;
- (2) No lease shall be for a longer term than sixty-five years...
- (3) No lease shall be made for any land under a lease that has more than two years to run;
- (4) No lease shall be made to any person who is in arrears in the payment of taxes, rents, or other obligations owed to the State or any county;

NOTE: the current payment requires a dollar a year, but actual payment receipt has not been documented to date!

(6) The lessee shall not sublet the whole or any part of the demised premises, except with the approval of the board; provided that prior to the approval, the board shall have the right to review and approve the rent to be charged to the sublessee;...

(c) Any extension authorized pursuant to subsection (b) shall be based on the economic life of the improvements as determined by the board or an independent appraiser; provided that the approval of any extension shall be subject to the following:

- (1) The demised premises have been used substantially for the purpose for which they were originally leased;
- (2) The aggregate of the initial term and any extension granted shall not be for more than sixty-five years;

(3) In the event of a reopening, the rental for any ensuing period shall be the fair market rental at the time of reopening;

7) e. (5) The length of the extension shall not exceed a reasonable length of time for the purpose of providing relief and shall in no case exceed five years.

The legislature appears to be attempting to circumvent both the trustee responsibilities Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the legislature-created entity Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) which has yet-to-be-defined purview over leases. Additionally, this bill is an attempt to override the HRS statutes and administrative rules set up to enforce them.

According to HRS 343, a lease for the conservation district should include a HEPA required Environmental impact Statement reviewed and approved by the BLNR, according to current rules. Any lease or use of land within a state Conservation District generally triggers an environmental review under Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 343, which may require an Environmental Assessment (EA) or a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if significant impacts are anticipated

The process, managed by the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL), involves submitting a Conservation District Use Application (CDUA), which determines if the project requires a full EIS.

Key details regarding EIS requirements for Conservation District leases:

Trigger Mechanism: Any use of land within a conservation district, shoreline, or historic district triggers the need for an environmental assessment to determine if an EIS is needed.

Application Process: A draft EA must be attached to the CDUA, and based on this, the agency will determine if a full EIS is necessary.

There has been no lease extension Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) for the astronomy lease, and no EIS presented for consideration by the BLNR.

This bill would contravene the statutory authority over conservation district lands and trustee duties to address the benefits accorded to native Hawaiians regarding Crown and Government Lands held in trust.

For this reason I request that you do not advance this bill. Mahalo for taking my testimony.

Sierra Mcveigh

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:36:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on this bill which would allow the extension of leases on Mauna Kea for another 10 years without the necessary public input. This is a violation of our processes including the requirement to assess the impact on our environment, to consider the input from the Hawaiian community, and public concerns.

Vote NO on Thursday Feb 26th.

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:54:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nedi McKnight	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama  
Rep. Elle Cochran  
Rep. Gregg Takayama  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem  
Rep. Diamond Garcia  
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa  
Rep. Garner M. Shimizu

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB2593 — Mauna Kea

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Pōhakuloa does not make Hawai‘i safer. It makes Hawai‘i a primary target should there be an international conflict or war in the Pacific. All due respect to Governor Josh Green, who is openly negotiating with the U.S. military over lands that are not his to grant, this public negotiation highlights a serious problem: the state is asserting control over lands of profound cultural and spiritual importance without the consent of those whose lives and practices are tied to them. HB2593 mirrors this approach, seeking to extend leases and consolidate authority over Mauna Kea while ignoring the voices of the people who are its true guardians.

Key Objections:

No consent, no legitimacy

Mauna Kea is sacred. HB2593 extends leases without meaningful consultation with Native Hawaiian communities or stakeholders. Extending leases this way continues a long history of dismissing the voices of those who protect and care for the mountain.

Cultural and environmental harm

This bill prioritizes administrative convenience and institutional interests over sacred and ecological protection. By formalizing extended authority without enforceable safeguards, it threatens irreversible damage to both cultural and environmental resources.

### Unchecked authority

Granting the Stewardship and Oversight Authority extended powers without defined accountability is unacceptable. Oversight mechanisms must be enforceable; otherwise, this bill simply codifies authority over lands that belong to the people.

### This bill should not pass

HB2593 is not responsible governance. It represents a state-centered consolidation of power over sacred lands and must be rejected.

### Conclusion

I urge this committee to vote against HB2593. Mauna Kea is sacred, and its protection cannot be subordinated to leases or administrative convenience. Respecting the cultural integrity of these lands is a duty the Legislature cannot abdicate.

Do not pass this bill. Mauna Kea is not for sale, not for lease, and not for the purposes of a collapsing empire's wars.

Kū kia'ī i Mauna

Nedi McKnight

Pa'auilo, Hawai'i & Te Hiku o te Ika Aotearoa

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:54:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kawehilani Lactaoen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi Strongly Oppose HB2593. I am Native Hawaiian, and would like to see no more telescopes on the Mauna Kea. Telescopes and Organizations already have leases should run out their lease and leave not extend it at this point and time. If and when that time comes, address that issue closer to the lease end individually, not as a whole.

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:26:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexander McNicoll	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose **HB2593 HD1**.

**HB-2593-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:57:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/26/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sheena Lopes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STOP THE 10 YEAR EXTENSIONS ENOUGH ALREADY