

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 1194-26

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2592
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2592, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Clarify the powers of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority so that it may carry out its intended duties regarding land use on Mauna Kea;
- (2) Transfer as a matter of law certain real property interests in the Mauna Kea lands to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority;
- (3) Require the University of Hawaii to transfer the various Mauna Kea astronomical observatory conservation district use permits to the astronomical observatories;
- (4) Provide that the existing plans and administrative rules adopted or developed by the University of Hawaii under which Mauna Kea is currently governed remain in effect until plans and administrative rules adopted by the



Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority take effect; and

- (5) Clarify that the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority has state sovereign immunity.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority; Maunakea Observatories; and two individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from 'O Maku'u Ke Kahua; HULI PAC; Pōhaku Pelemaka; Ka Lāhui Hawai'i; Malu 'Aina Center for Non-Violent Education & Action; Ohanamauna; Chamber of Sustainable Commerce; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; Department of Land and Natural Resources; and University of Hawai'i System.

Your Committee finds that in 2022, the Legislature established the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority to govern Mauna Kea in a more harmonious and collaborative manner and through a mindset that honors and perpetuates Native Hawaiian cultural practices. Your Committee recognizes that there is a need for continued refinement of the Authority's jurisdiction and responsibilities in order to ensure that it manages Mauna Kea with transparency, accountability, and respect. This measure promotes the stewardship of Mauna Kea by clarifying the powers of the Authority.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee believes that through this measure, the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority will be able to extend the leases for the use of Mauna Kea lands without triggering the requirements of chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes, relating to environmental impact statements so long as there is no change in the footprint or use.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2592, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it



pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2592,
H.D. 2.

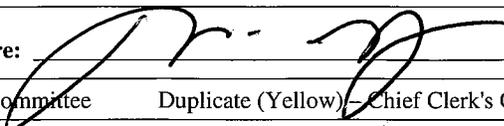
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary &
Hawaiian Affairs,



DAVID A. TARNAS, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Bill/Resolution No.: HB2592 HD1	Committee Referral: WAL, JHA	Date: 2/26/2026		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
JHA Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TARNAS, David A. (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)			✓	
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. COCHRAN, Elle				✓
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
7. SAYAMA, Jackson D.	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. GARCIA, Diamond			✓	
10. SHIMIZU, Garner M.		✓		
TOTAL (10)	6	1	2	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: 				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				