

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

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FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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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
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00 AM

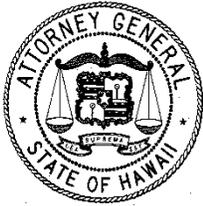
State Capitol, Conference Room 411 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2593
RELATING TO MAUNA KEA

House Bill 2593 proposes to extend for 10 years the master lease of Mauna Kea lands that is set to expire on December 31, 2033 and requires that subleases of Mauna Kea lands to astronomical observatories be extended for 10 years. **The Department offers the following comments.**

Act 255, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 established the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) and a transition and governance structure for the management of Mauna Kea lands. Act 255 was later codified as Chapter 195H, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS). The Act and Chapter 195H, HRS, specifically prohibit lease extensions. Section 195H-6(f), HRS, states, "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 Hawaii." (emphasis added). Section 195H-6(f), HRS, reflects a legislative intent to allow the existing lease structure to expire as management authority transitions to MKSOA. This bill would constitute a significant change to that framework by extending the master lease and related subleases for an additional ten years.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. NO. 2593, RELATING TO MAUNA KEA.

BEFORE THE:
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

DATE: Thursday, February 5, 2026 **TIME:** 9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 411

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Linda L.W. Chow, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) provides the following comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to extend the master lease of Mauna Kea lands and the associated subleases to astronomical observatories for an additional ten-year period.

The Department has concerns that this bill may be deemed special legislation in violation of article XI, section 5, of the Hawai'i Constitution.

Article XI, section 5, of the Hawai'i Constitution provides:

The legislative power over the lands owned by or under the control of the State and its political subdivisions shall be exercised only by general laws, except in respect to transfers to or for the use of the State, or a political subdivision, or any department or agency thereof.

By extending the term of the master lease and related subleases, the bill exercises legislative power over lands owned or under the control of the State. The relevant constitutional question, therefore, is whether the bill is a general law or a special law.

In *Sierra Club v. Dep't of Transp. of State of Haw.*, 120 Hawai'i 181, 202 P.3d 1226 (2009), as amended (May 13, 2009), the Hawai'i Supreme Court adopted a two-step analysis to determine whether a law was special legislation.

First, the court considers "whether the classification adopted by the legislature is a real or potential class, or whether it is logically and factually limited to a class of one and thus illusory." *Id.* at 203-04, 202 P.3d at 1248-49. A class is not illusory if it has potential future applicability and could include other members in the future. See *Id.* at 204, 202 P.3d at 1249. In making this determination, the court considers the actual probability of other members joining the class. See *Id.* at 214, 202 P.3d at 1259.

Second, if the class is illusory, the court determines whether the class is reasonable. *Id.* To be reasonable, the classification must be based on a distinguishing peculiarity and must reasonably relate to the purpose of the statute. See *In re Interrogatory Propounded by Governor Roy Romer on House Bill 91S-1005*, 814 P.2d 875, 887 (Colo. 1991).

This bill relates only to the master lease of Mauna Kea lands that is set to expire on December 31, 2033, and subleases of Mauna Kea lands to astronomical observatories. There appears to be little probability that other lands would fall within this classification in the future. As such, the class created by the bill may be deemed illusory, and this bill may be subject to challenge as special legislation.

To address this concern, the Department recommends that, instead of amending the master lease and subleases for the Mauna Kea lands, the bill amend section 195H-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to provide general authority for the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority to issue or extend leases and consent to subleases up to a maximum term of 75 years. For example, section 195H-7(b), HRS, could be amended as follows:

(b) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, all powers and duties of the board of land and natural resources pursuant to chapter 171, and the land use commission pursuant to chapter 205, concerning permits, dispositions, land use approvals, and any other approvals pertaining to the Mauna Kea lands are transferred to the authority upon the expiration of the transition period; provided that the authority may extend existing leases and subleases before the transfer for up to an additional ten-year term; provided further that the transfer of such powers and duties from the board of land and natural resources and the land use commission may occur earlier, upon approval of the authority, the board of land and natural resources, and the land use commission. Upon the expiration of

the transition period, the authority shall carry out the powers and duties otherwise conferred upon the board of land and natural resources pursuant to chapter 171, and the land use commission pursuant to chapter 205, with regard to permits, dispositions, land use approvals, and any other approvals pertaining to the Mauna Kea lands.

We respectfully ask the Committee to consider the recommended amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the bill.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

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

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water and Land
February 5, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

By

Vassilis L. Symos, 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 – RELATING TO THE MAUNA KEA.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai‘i (University) respectfully submits comments related to HB 2593. The University remains deeply committed to the continued stewardship of Maunakea. UH has and will continue 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).

The University agrees with MKSOA that stewardship of Maunakea is best achieved when the mauna is cared for as a whole. The University also believes that the most pressing issue for the survival of astronomy on Maunakea is the need for certainty regarding future observatory leases given the impending expiration of the University’s master lease and all of the observatory subleases in 2033. The disinvestment by observatories has already begun and delays in long term lease rights impede the ability of international federal funding agencies to invest in long term projects by the Maunakea observatories. That in turn jeopardizes funding for critical management functions, including maintaining access to the mauna for practitioners, the community and the public alike. The loss of even one observatory increases the cost of stewardship for all those remaining, including the public, the University and the State.

It is unclear if a ten (10) year lease term will be sufficient for the level of investment needed for the many astronomy projects, including the necessary financing commitments.

In addition, while additional time will be useful to complete the complicated process to renew the leases, additional time without milestones for progress on the related

requirements may be meaningless. For example, before investing in large projects, users will want to see milestones for the State including: (i) identifying terms for new leases; (ii) initiating the steps for environmental review in advance of land use approvals; and (iii) supporting MKSOA transition matters, such as staffing and budgets.

We would defer to the Department of the Attorney General as to the legal requirements to extend the University leases beyond 2033, given the existing restrictions as set forth in HRS §171-36¹ and HRS §171-95.1². In addition to the revisions to Act 255 (2022), additional legislation would likely be required to expressly authorize a ten (10) year extension.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

¹*HRS §171-36 Lease restrictions; generally. (a) Except as otherwise provided, the following restrictions shall apply to all leases:*

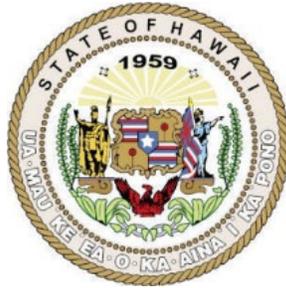
(1) Options for renewal of terms are prohibited;

(2) No lease shall be for a longer term than sixty-five years, except in the case of a residential leasehold....”

²*HRS §171-95.1 Authority of board to extend leases under certain circumstances. Notwithstanding the lease restrictions established pursuant to section 171-36, the board may, without public auction, extend a public land lease that is issued to a school or government entity pursuant to section 171-95 beyond the sixty-five year maximum lease term. The authority established pursuant to this section to extend a lease shall not apply to any lease to the University of Hawaii of lands within a conservation district of which the University of Hawaii has subleased a portion for the purpose of constructing an astronomical observatory.”*

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JOHN KOMEIJI
Chairperson

KIMO ALAMEDA
POMAI BERTELMANN
NEIL HANNAHS
PAUL HORNER
*BONNIE IRWIN
RYAN KANAKA'OLE
KALEHUA KRUG
BEN KUDO
LANAKILA MANGAUIL
RICH MATSUDA
NOE NOE WONG-WILSON

*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 WATER AND LAND February 5, 2026 9:00 A.M. State Capitol, Room 411

COMMENTS FOR H.B. 2593 RELATING TO MAUNA KEA

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

The Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB2593.

MKSOA understands the urgency surrounding the continuation of observatory operations on Mauna Kea and the need to ensure orderly transitions as existing leases near expiration. Toward that end, the Authority is actively advancing its responsibilities under Act 255 (2022), including development of a comprehensive management plan that will establish a clear framework for astronomy-related activities on Mauna Kea. This management plan, required by statute, is intended to guide future decision-making in a manner that integrates cultural, environmental, scientific, and community considerations.

In parallel, MKSOA is working collaboratively with the University of Hawai'i through the Joint Management Committee (JMC) to explore the scope and requirements of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that would be necessary for any future observatory leases. The Authority is also evaluating how to establish lease terms that are equitable, feasible, and financially sustainable, consistent with Act 255's mandate that MKSOA strive to operate in a financially self-sustaining manner.

MKSOA recognizes that Act 255 establishes the policy of the State to support astronomy and explicitly directs the Authority to develop, negotiate, and execute agreements related to astronomy on Mauna Kea. The Authority is bound to implement this policy and carry out its statutory responsibilities in accordance with the law.

Should this measure move forward, MKSOA respectfully requests clarification on several implementation issues to ensure alignment between Act 255 and the proposed lease extensions:

- 1. Roles and Responsibilities Post-2033:**

If existing observatory leases are extended through 2043, what roles, if any, would the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the University of Hawai'i (UH) retain

after July 1, 2033, when management authority over Mauna Kea is statutorily transferred to MKSOA?

2. **Authority to Manage Mauna Kea:**

As of July 1, 2033, absent contractual authority over the observatory leases, would MKSOA nevertheless have full authority to manage Mauna Kea lands, or would lease-related authority remain outside of the Authority's jurisdiction until 2043?

3. **Consistency With the Management Plan:**

MKSOA's management plan is scheduled for completion by the end of this year and adoption next year. If extended observatory leases conflict with policies, standards, or frameworks established in the adopted management plan, what process should be used to reconcile those conflicts while remaining consistent with Act 255?

4. **Financial Sustainability Requirements:**

Act 255 requires MKSOA to develop a financial plan that ensures the Authority is financially self-sustaining. If current lease rents remain unchanged through 2043, would the statutory requirement for financial self-sustainability effectively be deferred until that time?

5. **Observing Time:**

Would the requirement for MKSOA to negotiate the share of observing time going to UH and that this time be prioritized for the participation of Hawai'i students or projects curated and submitted by the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center be deferred until 2043?

MKSOA offers these comments in the spirit of ensuring clarity, continuity, and lawful implementation of the State's policy for Mauna Kea. Clear guidance on these issues will assist the Authority in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities while supporting astronomy, protecting public trust resources, and honoring the intent of Act 255.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments and for your consideration of these important questions.

Sincerely,
John Komeiji
Chairperson, MKSOA



House Committee on Water and Land

Thursday, February 5, 2026, 9 AM Hearing in Conference Room 411 on
HB 2593, Relating to Mauna Kea

COMMENTS

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii has concerns about whether the State Constitution allows enactment of a session law which explicitly extends existing private subleases of public lands at Mauna Kea. Article XI, Section 5 of the Hawaii Constitution prohibits enactment of a “special” law which only applies to private use of public lands at one specific location.

The Constitution of the State of Hawaii

Article XI Section 5. *The legislative power over the lands owned by or under the control of the State and its political subdivisions shall be exercised only by general laws, except in respect to transfers to or for the use of the State, or a political subdivision, or any department or agency thereof.*

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:52:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case	Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2593

Relating to University of Hawai'i Lease Extension

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case, Co-founder of Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au Foundation along with Kuha'o Kawaauhau-Case, We are currently finalizing our soon to be 501c3. 'O Mauna A Wakea no ku'u Mauna, 'O Waimea Moku 'O Keawe mai au. I respectfully submit this testimony in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB2593, which proposes to extend the University of Hawai'i's lease for an additional ten years.

This measure continues a pattern of granting lease extensions without requiring accountability for cultural harm, environmental degradation, and violations of public trust obligations. These crown lands managed in Public Trust by DLNR are not merely state property; they are conservation district lands and wahi pana that hold deep genealogical, spiritual, and cultural significance to Native Hawaiians and the broader lāhui.

I have consistently supported and shared Aloha 'Āina advocacy because these issues are not abstract to me. My 'ohana maintains an ongoing cultural relationship with Mauna Kea. My daughter's piko was placed at Lake Waiau, a sacred body of water that we respect and honor through continued customary practice. These rights are protected under Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai'i State Constitution.

The case of Flores-Case v. University of Hawai'i at Hilo demonstrates the University's long-standing failure to properly manage ceded and conservation lands and to uphold its fiduciary responsibilities. That case highlights systemic mismanagement and disregard for Native Hawaiian rights while UH continues to benefit from permissive leasing and state accommodation.

HB2593 would further entrench invasive astronomical development and operations within a conservation district where such uses are incompatible with constitutional mandates to protect natural and cultural resources. These operations persist despite the creation of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, which was intended to correct past mismanagement and ensure proper stewardship of Mauna Kea. Extending UH's lease before meaningful restoration,

compliance, and full transition of authority undermines the purpose of MKSOA and perpetuates confusion over responsibility and accountability.

This extension rewards a history of:

- Cultural desecration,
- Environmental harm,
- Failure to comply with conservation district protections,
- Disregard for meaningful Native Hawaiian consultation and consent, and
- Continued entrenchment of industrial use despite the establishment of MKSOA.

As trustee, the State of Hawai'i and DLNR has a legal and moral obligation to protect these lands for present and future generations. Conservation lands must not be transformed into permanent industrial zones through incremental lease renewals. I oppose any new Leases, Lease extensions or Lease renewals involving industrial development and operations on our Mauna Kea to include construction of telescopes such as the TMT, Geothermal on DHHL lands our Mauna to include perspective site Humu'ula, and continued desecration of the Military training operations on our Mauna at Pōhakuloa.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to OPPOSE HB2593 and instead pursue policies that prioritize restoration, healing, accountability, proper stewardship under the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, and the protection of Native Hawaiian customary and traditional practices.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo Nui,

Kanoeuluwehianuhea Case

Co-Founder of Na Wai Ho'ola Nui La'au Lapa'au Foundation- Moku 'O Keawe

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:51:03 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Faith Action for Community Equity	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kristen Young and I was born and raised on O‘ahu where I continue to reside. Out of respect for Hawai‘i and its people, I strongly OPPOSE HB2593 which would automatically extend leases on Mauna Kea—land that we've all come to know is regarded sacred by Native Hawaiians.

This bill completely ignores public input and Native Hawaiian stewardship and oversight. After years of mismanagement and years of the community standing in protection of Mauna Kea, this bill which disregards all of that is deeply devastating and disrespectful and will contribute to the people's further distrust in the State.

Supporting this bill would effectively be cutting off and silencing community voices. As a representative, I believe it is in your best interest to ensure constituents are heard. As a resident of Hawai‘i, I hope you will prioritize care for this land. True mālama 'āina cannot occur when Native Hawaiians are excluded from decisions about their sacred lands.

Please vote NO on HB2593.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Kristen Young
Honolulu, HI 96813

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:01:15 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine SanJose	Kahua O Kakou Corporation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou (Hello everyone),

My ‘ohana (family) and I are in Opposition to this HB2593 because of the years of negligence and mismanagement of our Sacred Mauna-A-Wākea by the State of Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawai‘i. Mauna-A-Wākea is one of many important nā ‘ai wai (water aquifers) on our Moku O Keawe also known as Big Island of Hawai‘i that we rely on for the most important resource for our very existence. We live only on one of 8 islands that is smack in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and no where else to go. So without this very resource, no living organism will ever survive and is coming to complete extinction as a dying race/species we, Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiians/Hawaiian Nationals) are already enduring.

An extention for another 10-years of their lease is like a slap to our face or should I say "you might as well run us over with a bus while you at it" because the longer these observatories/Telescopes remain upon our Aquifer, we might as well drink the Mercury chemical straight from the Telescopes lens.

We have endured so much desecration to so much of ‘āina from Ka‘ū to Ni‘ihau enough is enough!

State of Hawai‘i is Illegally Occupying our Government, our ‘āina (lands), nā kahakai (ocean), nā kahawai (river streams), and nā lewa ākea (air space) since January 17, 1893 and even the Joint Resolution of 1898 has no validity in any given Country's Laws that gives any legal merits of taking over another country, legally! Because if that had any truth in it, we, Kānaka Maoli of the Kingdom of the Hawaiian Islands would be able to go to Washington D.C. and overtake the White House and their Congress/Government. So with that being said every business transaction, signed contracts, etc... that has been conducted in the past, present, and future since January 17, 1893 has no Jurisdiction and is all being illegally committed under international humanitarian law, specifically the 1907 Hague Regulations and the 1949 Geneva Convention (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. These laws that State of Hawai‘i created by the United States of America occupying power to respect the laws of the occupied state, prohibiting the alteration of public officials' status, as stated in Article 54 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and all individuals involved will be held accountable of prosecution under the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, which defines and prohibits actions intended to destroy national, ethnic, or racial groups. Proponents argue that the U.S. occupation of the Hawaiian Kingdom (begun in 1898)

involved forced denationalization, which is characterized as a form of genocide under international humanitarian law and the laws of occupation. So with that said we leave you with a mahalo nūnui loa (thank you very much) for allowing my ‘ohana (family) and I to express our interest of opposition of this HB2593.

Me ke aloha pumehana (With our sincerest aloha (love),

Elton & Elaine Makaio-SanJose

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:34:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

RE: HB2593 OPPOSE

Aloha, Committee Chair Hashem and Members,

Hawai'i Revised Statutes 171-36 cites several provisions that are in direct conflict with this bill. 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 the actual payment receipt has not been documented to date!

(5) The lessee shall not sublet the whole or any part of the demised premises, except with the approval of the board; provided that before 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;

6) 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 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the legislature-created entity, the 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 Hawai'i 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 has been 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.

Created from a document by Deborah Ward.

Susan RobertsEmery

I'm inserting this testimony today as a resident of Mauna Kea Foothills in Hamakua District and Co-Chair Green Party of Hawai'i.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:38:24 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB2593!!

Dana Keawe

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:52:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel O'Sullivan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2593

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:10:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
maelani Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Maelani Lee and I submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB2593.

True mālama ‘āina cannot occur when Native Hawaiians are excluded from meaningful decision-making about their sacred lands. HB2593 moves Hawai‘i further away from justice, accountability, and genuine stewardship by prioritizing institutional convenience over cultural, environmental, and community rights.

This bill locks in a history of mismanagement without accountability, reinforcing the very failures that led to public outcry and the creation of new oversight structures. It contradicts the spirit and intent of Act 255, which established the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority to correct past harms, ensure transparency, and restore public trust—particularly trust with Native Hawaiian beneficiaries.

HB2593 silences opposition before it can be heard, limiting public input and restricting the ability of communities to raise legitimate concerns. This undermines democratic process and erodes confidence in state decision-making.

The bill further limits the ability to enforce cultural and environmental protections, sending a dangerous message that sacred lands can be overridden for short-term interests. This is fundamentally incompatible with mālama ‘āina and Hawai‘i’s public trust responsibilities.

Of particular concern, the provision extending leases for up to ten years:

- bypasses meaningful public input,
- prioritizes observatory interests over sacred and cultural significance,
- undermines the authority and purpose of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority,
- eliminates or weakens environmental review, increasing the risk of ecological harm, and
- ignores ongoing cultural impact concerns raised by Native Hawaiian practitioners and community members.

Mauna Kea is not merely a site of scientific interest—it is a sacred wahi pana, deeply tied to Native Hawaiian identity, genealogy, and spiritual practice. Decisions about its future must be made with full accountability, transparency, and Native Hawaiian participation at the center, not as an afterthought.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB2593 and instead uphold the principles of mālama ʻāina, public trust, and justice for Native Hawaiians.

I am also an heir to Mauna Kea and oppose any structures being built and would like all removed and land returned to its natural state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Maelani Lee

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:43:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Marquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

Another 10 year extension lease? This bill is a convenient way to exclude kanaka from important decisions being made on our sacred land. It undermines the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority and its simply another way to slide in 10 more years of desecrating our Mauna. Please OPPOSE HB2593 for the sake of protecting our sacred Mauna.

Mahalo,

Malia Marquez

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:53:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Safranski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am not Hawaiian and I still see how wrong this is

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2593
RELATING TO MAUNA KEA LEASE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Thursday, February 5, 2026
9:00AM - Conference Room 411

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee,

While I recognize the desire for administrative continuity during the transition to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA), I respectfully oppose this bill as currently drafted due to significant governance, accountability, and public trust concerns.

HB 2593 automatically extends the Mauna Kea master lease and all associated observatory subleases for ten years by operation of law, without discretionary review, updated findings, or performance conditions. This approach raises the following concerns:

- **HB 2593 bypasses meaningful oversight and public process.** The bill extends leases automatically rather than through a review by BLNR or the MKSOA. This removes opportunities for public input, updated analysis, and case-by-case evaluation that are typically required for public trust land decisions of this magnitude.
- **HB 2593 undermines the intent of Act 255 (2022).** Act 255 was enacted to reform governance on Mauna Kea and transition away from the legacy University of Hawai'i lease structure. Extending existing leases for another decade locks in the very framework the Legislature sought to change and limits the practical authority of the new stewardship body.
- **HB 2593 provides extensions without performance or compliance conditions.** The bill does not require review of environmental compliance, cultural stewardship obligations, decommissioning progress, or leaseholder performance prior to extension. Leases are renewed regardless of outcomes, accountability, or unmet obligations.
- **HB 2593 requires no updated environmental or cultural review.** A ten-year extension of use on highly sensitive public trust and culturally significant lands occurs without any requirement for updated environmental assessments, ka pa'a kai analyses, cultural impact reviews, or revised management plans.
- **HB 2593 pre-decides lease terms before MKSOA can exercise full authority.** Although the bill states it does not affect the transfer of authority, it effectively constrains the MKSOA by predetermining lease duration and prohibiting renegotiation of substantive terms, including rent,

stewardship conditions, and enforcement mechanisms.

- **HB 2593 explicitly illustrates favoring of existing lessees.** Sublease extensions are subject to the agreement of the observatories, yet there is no parallel requirement that extensions affirmatively serve the public interest, Native Hawaiian interests, or stewardship objectives.
- **Misses an opportunity to renegotiate outdated lease terms.** The bill explicitly prohibits any changes to lease terms other than expiration dates, preventing adjustment of economic, environmental, or stewardship provisions despite decades of changed circumstances.
- **Creates public trust and litigation risk.** As Mauna Kea lands are public trust resources, the State has an affirmative duty to justify continued use. The bill contains no findings demonstrating necessity, benefit to the trust, or proportionality, increasing vulnerability to legal challenge.

In summary, H.B. 2593 prioritizes certainty for existing lessees over accountability, updated stewardship standards, and the intent of Mauna Kea governance reform. A ten-year blanket extension of public trust land leases should not occur without review, conditions, and demonstrated public benefit.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to reject this bill as drafted or substantially amend it to ensure transparency, accountability, and alignment with the stewardship principles established in Act 255.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Yamanaka Aynessazian
Hilo

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:39:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Holt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2593.

I come to this testimony not only as a concerned resident, but as a person of faith who understands sacred space. Church is not just a building. It is where people go to be quiet, to listen, to be humbled, and to remember we are not the center of the universe. For Kanaka and many others, the rightful heirs to this ‘āina and wai, Mauna Kea is such a place. It is a sacred space where connection to God, to ancestors, and to one another is made real. Respect for religious freedom must include respect for this relationship and for the people whose faith is inseparable from this land.

There have been many a time in my life when I was lost. I have gone up Mauna Kea with no agenda and no answers. I sat. I listened to the wind. I watched the clouds move across the summit. I felt the stillness, the power, and the grace of the mountain. In these moments, I felt grounded. I felt held. Reminded that I am part of something vast, ancient, and alive. These experiences change me, and it is one of the reasons I write today.

We owe Mauna Kea everything. She pulls moisture from the air and brings us rain. Water to drink. Water to grow our crops. Water for our children to play in. She protects us from storms by cooling the surrounding ocean. She is not a metaphor. She is living, essential, and irreplaceable. She is the heartbeat of the lāhui.

HB2593 proposes an automatic ten year lease extension that bypasses meaningful oversight and public process. That process is required, not optional. This bill undermines the intent of Act 255 from 2022, which was meant to reform the governance of Mauna Kea after decades of mismanagement.

By granting extensions without review, this bill fails to require demonstrated progress on decommissioning or accountability for cultural and environmental obligations. It requires no updated management plans, no environmental assessments, no cultural impact reviews, and no Ka Pa‘akai analyses. It also misses a critical opportunity to renegotiate outdated lease terms that no longer reflect community values, legal responsibilities, or ecological reality.

Most concerning, HB2593 pre decides outcomes before the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority is allowed to fully exercise the authority it was created to hold. That is not stewardship. That is avoidance.

Sacred places demand care, humility, and transparency. Decisions about Mauna Kea must honor the people to whom the care of this mountain belongs while protecting the systems that sustain everyone who lives here.

For these reasons, from my faith and my lived experience, I strongly oppose HB2593.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:11:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB2593 for the following reasons:

- Automatically extending the master lease and all subleases for ten years removes meaningful public input and community oversight.
- The bill prioritizes astronomical observatories over Mauna Kea’s sacred, cultural, and spiritual significance.
- There is no requirement for updated cultural impact assessments, ignoring ongoing concerns of Native Hawaiian communities.
- Extending leases without updated environmental review risks irreversible harm to fragile ecosystems and natural resources.
- It undermines the authority and transition process of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority under Act 255.
- By acting before the transition period ends, it interferes with the Stewardship Authority’s intended role in managing the lands.
- The bill favors existing observatories, excluding community stakeholders from decisions about Mauna Kea’s future.
- Automatically extending leases prevents reconsideration of terms such as development limits, conservation measures, or sustainability practices.
- Locking in leases limits flexibility for new management strategies that could better protect the mountain.
- Extending leases without transparency undermines trust between the state, indigenous communities, and the public.
- This legislation may exacerbate conflicts between observatory operations and protection of natural and cultural resources.
- It sets a precedent for bypassing proper lease review on public lands, weakening accountability.
- The bill ignores decades of public debate, legal challenges, and community advocacy regarding Mauna Kea.
- It prioritizes long-term corporate and scientific interests over cultural preservation and environmental stewardship.

For these reasons I respectfully urge you to reject HB2593.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:26:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee

I strongly oppose HB2593.

This bill would automatically extend the master lease and all subleases on Mauna Kea for ten years without meaningful public input or community oversight. Such a sweeping extension removes the opportunity for transparent review and denies the public a voice in decisions affecting one of Hawai‘i’s most sacred places.

HB2593 prioritizes astronomical observatories over Mauna Kea’s cultural, spiritual, and environmental significance. It requires no updated cultural impact assessments, disregarding longstanding concerns raised by Native Hawaiian communities. It also extends leases without updated environmental review, risking further harm to fragile ecosystems and natural resources.

The bill undermines the intent of Act 255 by interfering with the authority and transition process of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. Acting before the transition period ends weakens the Stewardship Authority’s ability to carry out its responsibilities and shape future management of the mountain.

By locking in leases without review, the bill prevents reconsideration of key terms such as development limits, conservation measures, and sustainability practices. It favors existing observatories while excluding community stakeholders from decisions about Mauna Kea’s future.

HB2593 also sets a dangerous precedent by bypassing standard lease review processes for public lands, weakening accountability and transparency. This approach risks deepening conflict, eroding public trust, and ignoring decades of public debate, legal challenges, and community advocacy.

Mauna Kea deserves careful, inclusive, and responsible stewardship—not automatic lease extensions that place institutional convenience over cultural preservation and environmental protection.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB2593.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:31:41 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tangerine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha House Representatives,

I am Tangerine and as a native Hawaiian who, all my life, has had to witness the perpetual attempts to silence my people in our home, I strongly oppose HB2593. We all know what this is, another blatant attack to keep Hawaiian lands out of Hawaiian hands. It sickens me that anyone would even propose this slave days, settler colonist, bill. Automatic 10 year lease renewal? To what end? This is a very transparent power attempt to bypass the RIGHTS of the PEOPLE.

You are not kings. You do not get to pass laws that strip away rights and nullifies the opinions of the people. You do not get to ignore Kanaka, take everything from us, and play in our faces like we are stupid barbarians.

Automatic 10 year renewal. Automatic 10 year renewal to talk down to us like we don't value science, our navigators were centuries ahead of the colonizers. Automatic 10 year renewal to steal our aina, to poison her and her people for generations with the mess you never clean. Automatic 10 year REMINDER that you, the "State of Hawaii" aka America, "own" us but you never have and never will.

After you destroy everything and decide you don't want it anymore, after your asthmatic grandchildren later birth children with worse conditions and deformities, after every last Hawaiian is forced out of Hawaii by your laws? To what end?

Reject this bill. If for nothing else than to make sure your vacation rentals still get filled.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:55:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I stand in opposition to HB2593, which extends the master lease and all subleases to astronomical observatories for 10 years.

Typically, as leases expire, conditions and health of the land are accessed, impacts to the natural and cultural resources are documented, and then a renewal or extension of a lease is considered based on the potential for impacts on the land and natural resources. This bill will negate those processes set forth to protect our environment and our cultural resources. Each lease should be considered individually, the use and impacts upon the land reviewed fully, then the consideration of an extension given.

We must not side step our current processes, especially when it can be detrimental to our natural and cultural resources.

We've already seen how important Mauna Kea is to the Native Hawaiian population, as well as the residents of Hawaii, we should continue to follow our processes that protect us from further harm.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Keoni Shizuma

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:17:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristie Duarte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed HB 2593

Cindy Freitas
makainanqi@gmail.com

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB 2593 (2026)

Relating to Mauna Kea

He Mele komo a he mele aloha no na kupuna o ke au i hala Aloha mai kakou.

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I submit this testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to **HB 2593**, which proposes to automatically extend the Mauna Kea master lease and all astronomical observatory subleases for an additional ten years, from 2033 to 2043

HB2593

This bill should be rejected outright.

HB 2593 does not merely adjust timelines it **legislatively predetermines outcomes** that should be subject to environmental law, cultural review, public process, and the authority of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA).

1. No Environmental Review or Re-Evaluation

HB 2593 contains **no requirement** for a new or supplemental environmental review, despite the fact that a 10-year extension constitutes a **major discretionary action**. Conditions on Mauna Kea have changed since prior approvals, including cumulative impacts, climate stressors, and groundwater concerns.

By extending leases **by operation of law**, this bill **sidesteps environmental safeguards** that exist to protect public trust lands.

2. No Cultural Impact Assessment or Native Hawaiian Consultation

The bill is **silent** on cultural impact assessments, consultation with lineal descendants, or protection of customary and traditional practices.

Mauna Kea is a sacred landscape. Extending leases without cultural review **disregards Native Hawaiian rights** and undermines long-standing commitments to pono stewardship.

3. Legislative Override of MKSOA Authority

The Legislature created MKSOA specifically to end automatic renewals and restore accountability in Mauna Kea governance. HB 2593 **undermines that reform** by mandating lease extensions before MKSOA can exercise meaningful review or discretion.

This bill effectively **strips MKSOA of authority** over one of the most consequential decisions it was created to oversee.

4. No Performance or Compliance Review

HB 2593 provides **automatic extensions** regardless of:

- Past compliance failures
- Outstanding violations
- Delayed decommissioning obligations

There is **no mechanism** to deny extensions based on performance. This rewards noncompliance and removes accountability.

5. No Financial Transparency or Public Benefit Analysis

The bill does not require:

- Updated fair-market rent analysis
- Public benefit findings
- Reassessment of whether continued use serves the people of Hawai‘i

Public lands especially in Hawai‘i County should not be encumbered for another decade **without demonstrating public value**.

6. No Decommissioning, Restoration, or Exit Conditions

HB 2593 fails to require:

- Binding decommissioning timelines
- Guaranteed funding for restoration
- Enforceable end-of-use conditions

This delays long-overdue restoration and increases the risk of permanent degradation.

7. No Public Process or Case-by-Case Review

Finally, the bill eliminates opportunities for:

- Public hearings on individual lease extensions
- Contested case review
- Community input

Blanket legislative renewal replaces transparency with mandate.

Conclusion: STRONG OPPOSE

HB 2593 **locks in another decade of impacts without consent, review, or accountability**. It reverses the very reforms the Legislature enacted to restore trust in Mauna Kea governance.

If lease extensions are to be considered, they must occur **only after**:

- Environmental review
- Cultural impact assessment
- MKSOA-led evaluation
- Public process
- Performance and compliance review

Because HB 2593 includes **none** of these safeguards, I urge you to **REJECT THIS BILL IN ITS ENTIRETY**.

Mahalo

Cindy Freitas

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:24:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB2593.

This bill proposes an automatic 10-year lease extension while bypassing meaningful public oversight and process—despite the fact that Mauna Kea has been the site of the largest and longest protest in modern Hawai‘i history. Advancing this bill ignores that history and sends a clear message that community voices, legal obligations, and constitutional protections can be broken, ignored, and set aside for special interests.

HB2593 directly undermines and betrays the intent of Act 255 (2022), which was enacted specifically to reform the governance of Mauna Kea after decades of conflict, mismanagement, and failure to uphold cultural and environmental responsibilities. Act 255 established a new management framework and trust, with the promise of accountability, transparency, and a reset in decision-making. Granting an automatic lease extension without review erodes that trust at its foundation.

Equally concerning is the complete lack of substantive review. There is no evaluation of whether long-standing cultural and environmental obligations have been met, despite decades of documented concerns. There are no revised management plans, and no updated kāpa‘a kai or environmental analyses to assess current and future impacts. Proceeding without these is not only irresponsible—it is legally and ethically indefensible.

HB2593 communicates profound disrespect for the Hawai‘i State Constitution, the laws that protect and perpetuate Native Hawaiian cultural practices, and the very governance structure the Legislature created in 2022 to restore integrity to Mauna Kea’s management. Automatic extensions without accountability repeat the exact failures that led to Act 255 in the first place.

Mauna Kea is not merely a parcel of land or a leasehold asset. It is a sacred place with constitutional protections and a history that demands care, humility, and due process. Any lease extension must be earned through demonstrated compliance, transparent review, and meaningful public participation—not granted automatically behind closed doors.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB2593.

Aloha,
Maki Morinoue
96725
Hawai'i Island

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:55:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Inda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding HB 2593. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to the measure as currently drafted.

1. Inadequate Consideration of Cultural and Spiritual Significance

Mauna Kea is a site of profound cultural, spiritual, and historical importance to Native Hawaiian communities. Its summit and surrounding lands are considered sacred and are central to traditional practices and beliefs. Extending existing leases and automatic extensions for observatory subleases through this bill would further entrench uses that many Native Hawaiian stakeholders find deeply disrespectful to cultural values.

2. Lack of Meaningful Community Consultation

Many affected community members and Native Hawaiian organizations have repeatedly called for genuine, meaningful consultation in decisions about the future of Mauna Kea. Simply extending leases for decades without ensuring that voices of kūpuna, cultural practitioners, and local communities are heard and incorporated undermines shared governance and reconciliation efforts.

3. Ongoing Conflict and Division

The legacy of conflict surrounding development on Mauna Kea — particularly astronomical facilities — is well documented. Rushing to extend leases without resolving core concerns about sovereignty, stewardship, and kuleana (responsibility) only risks exacerbating tensions and perpetuating distrust between state government and Indigenous communities.

4. Need for a Broader Vision for Stewardship

Rather than extending the current leasing status quo for another decade, Hawaii needs a comprehensive framework for Mauna Kea stewardship that balances scientific research with cultural preservation, environmental protection, and community priorities. This framework should emerge from a co-creative process with affected Native Hawaiian stakeholders and local communities, not by legislative fiat that pre-determines outcomes.

5. Potential Precedent for Other Sacred Lands

Approving automatic lease extensions for Mauna Kea could set an unwelcome precedent for how the State treats other culturally significant lands. This approach could weaken efforts to protect sacred sites elsewhere across Hawaii.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to defer or vote “no” on HB 2593 as currently written, and instead work toward legislation that centers cultural respect, community engagement, and shared stewardship of Mauna Kea. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Inda

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:08:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Loo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii Island resident, I strongly oppose this bill!
This bill undermines the public trust doctrine.

Grossly favors observatories over community input.

Undermines the MKSOA

February 3, 2026

RE: HB2593 OPPOSE

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.

Deborah Ward

P.O.Box 918 Kurtistown HI 96760

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:40:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawena Lauriano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou. I am writing in strong opposition of HB 2593. Automatic ten year leases on Mauna Kea should not be considered. Not only does this undermine the establishment of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority but it completely bypasses the public land lease reviews and limits public input in how our ‘āina is taken care of. This bill will create the perfect environment for potential long-term mismanagement and will breed even more distrust in the State of Hawai‘i to appropriately steward public lands.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:46:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lanny Sinkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The use of the term “public lands” is an inaccurate description of the lands in question. The lands are held in trust by the State. Any disposition of those lands by the trustees must be of benefit to the trust. Determining whether the benefit offered is an acceptable use of the lands should be a matter decided in consultation with the Native Hawaiian community.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:50:44 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheena Lopes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HEWA LOA. Please KILL this bill! Maunakea is a sacred mountain a part of the crown lands of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Let us not forget that the "state" of Hawai'i is an illegally occupied country under US Military. We have seen how our leased crown lands have been treated by the US and they show no care to the places they disrupt and destroy. We have already said NO to TMT, we have already said NO to any further development on our sacred mountain. To bypass public input during their leases, is to cut out the voices that care for the Mauna the most. Our lands deserve respect, and the history of Maunakea's mismanagment does not go away without proper remediation and proper care. Mai maka'u i ka hana, maka'u i ka moloā. Do not be afraid of work, be afraid of laziness. THIS is just being lazy when it comes to proper management and no trust can be rebuilt unless there is continous input from the public about how our lands are being utilized. Our Kūpuna are watching and our keiki are watching. DO not let our next 7 generations be the ones to bare the consequences of our continued mismanagment.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:55:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sky Bruno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony in strong opposition to HB2593. Mauna Kea is not a resource to be quietly extended by default. It is a sacred ancestor, a living summit, and a place of profound cultural, spiritual, and ecological significance to Kanaka Maoli and to all who understand stewardship as responsibility rather than entitlement.

HB2593 attempts to normalize automatic ten year lease extensions without meaningful public review, without true accountability, and without the free, prior, and informed consent of the people most impacted. Automatic extensions remove the obligation to pause, assess harm, evaluate compliance, and ask whether continued occupation is appropriate at all. That is not good governance. That is avoidance.

Mauna Kea has already borne decades of cumulative impact. Promises of care and balance have too often been followed by degradation, restricted access, and broken trust. Extending leases by default rewards a system that has failed to uphold its responsibilities and dismisses the voices of those who have been calling for protection, restoration, and a different future.

This bill undermines the principle that public lands must be actively and continually justified in their use. Leases on Mauna Kea should expire, be reviewed rigorously, and be subject to transparent processes rooted in law, culture, and environmental responsibility. Anything less prioritizes convenience over kuleana.

I oppose HB2593 because Mauna Kea deserves deliberate care, not automatic renewal. The mountain is not on a timer for administrative ease. It is a sacred trust held for future generations. We are obligated to slow down, listen, and choose protection over perpetuation of harm.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 4:00:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I submit this written testimony in ****strong opposition**** to HB2593.

I am a Hawai'i resident who believes the State must meet its constitutional and fiduciary duties when managing public trust lands on Mauna Kea. HB2593 would authorize an automatic ten-year extension of the Mauna Kea master lease and related subleases, removing these decisions from the careful, fact-specific review that our laws require. Such an across-the-board extension is not neutral; it privileges existing large-scale leaseholders over the public, including Native Hawaiian beneficiaries of the public land trust.

Under the Hawai'i State Constitution and long-standing case law, all public lands and natural resources are held in trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public, and agencies must actively protect traditional and customary practices, environmental quality, and the long-term integrity of trust lands. Automatic legislative extensions short-circuit that trust analysis. They allow continued industrial uses on Mauna Kea without the rigorous environmental review, cultural impact assessment, and public interest balancing that would otherwise be required in an open, adjudicatory process.

HB2593 also undermines the basic structure of administrative law. Lease terms and extensions on sensitive conservation lands should be decided by the responsible boards and authorities, based on a full evidentiary record, expert input, and meaningful public participation, including the right to a contested case where appropriate. Pre-authorizing a ten-year extension by statute predetermines those outcomes in favor of existing lessees and weakens accountability for compliance with prior conditions, mitigation measures, and evolving scientific and cultural knowledge about impacts to Mauna Kea.

Additionally, Mauna Kea is presently in a transition period under the new Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, which has been charged with developing a comprehensive management framework and rules for these lands. Locking in an extra decade of lease rights now would interfere with that process and constrain the Authority's ability to reform, reduce, or retire uses that are inconsistent with its stewardship mandate, the public trust, or the rights of Native Hawaiian practitioners.

For these reasons, HB2593 is not a “technical” or housekeeping measure. It is a substantive reallocation of risk and power on public trust lands, away from the general public and Native Hawaiian beneficiaries and toward a narrow set of private and institutional lessees. That is inconsistent with the State’s duty of undivided loyalty to trust beneficiaries and with the requirement that any long-term disposition of trust lands be closely scrutinized for necessity, proportionality, and public benefit.

I respectfully urge this Committee to reject HB2593. If any lease or sublease on Mauna Kea is to be renewed or extended, it should occur only after full environmental and cultural review, a transparent public process, and a clear, written finding that the extension complies with the public trust doctrine, the public land trust, and constitutional protections for Native Hawaiian rights.

Thank you for considering this testimony and for your responsibility to uphold the law and protect Mauna Kea for future generations.

Sincerely,

Deborah Umiamaka

Hawai‘i Resident

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:12:03 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the detailed technical testimony submitted by Deborah Ward. I am very concerned that the concerns of Kanaka Maoli about the sacredness of Mauna Kea are being ignored. That was the key issues in the Mauna movement to block TMT and protect the sacred. Are you listening?

Mahalo.

Jim Albertini

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:35:25 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Rose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill to extend the leases on Mauna Kea because I feel this bill is prioritizing the interests of the observatories over sacred and cultural significance; undermines the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority; eliminates environmental review, risking ecological harm; continues to ignore ongoing cultural impact concerns; locks in leases which limits future management flexibility; favors observatories over community stakeholders; sets a precedent for bypassing public land lease reviews; prevents reconsideration of terms like conservation or development limits; reduces transparency and trust; and it also undermines the public trust doctrine. These reasons are important to consider in opposing this bill at the very least. Understanding the sanctity and preciousness of the Mauna, for the water provided to our island and the absolute duty we have to protect those waters for all life here on this island is paramount. Thank you for reading my testimony.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:20:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Wheeler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha ‘Āina,

This testimony is submitted in **opposition** to HB2593, which proposes automatic 10-year master lease and sublease extensions on Mauna Kea.

‘Āina Aloha,

Momi Wheeler

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:35:00 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE automatic 1 year extensions of leases. I can't believe this is still happening. Some politician always trying to slip something by the Hawaiian community in hopes that we aren't watching. My testimony is that automatic lease extensions circumvent the very reason the MKSOA was created. LET THEM STEWARD THE MAUNA.

Enough already!

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:32:24 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

I submit testimony in **strong opposition** to H.B. 2593.

H.B. 2593 would extend, by operation of law, the master lease of Mauna Kea lands and all subleases to astronomical observatories for an additional ten years, from December 31, 2033, to December 31, 2043. This extension would occur without public process, without environmental review, and without demonstrated compliance with longstanding obligations to protect Mauna Kea.

The Legislature has repeatedly acknowledged that Mauna Kea has suffered decades of mismanagement, environmental degradation, and failure to meet stewardship responsibilities under the existing lease framework. The scheduled expiration of the master lease in 2033 is not a technical inconvenience - it is a critical accountability milestone intended to ensure that past harms are addressed and that future governance reflects proper care, protection, and respect for this sacred summit.

H.B. 2593 undermines that accountability by unilaterally extending leases without any showing that the University of Hawai'i or sublessees have remedied past violations, restored damaged resources, or complied with conditions that were meant to be enforced before any continuation of use. Extending leases automatically rewards noncompliance and removes leverage that the State and the public would otherwise have to demand corrective action.

The bill is particularly troubling because it applies notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, effectively bypassing safeguards, public trust obligations, and meaningful oversight. Requiring that subleases to astronomical observatories also be extended eliminates any opportunity to reassess whether continued occupation of Mauna Kea lands is appropriate, justified, or consistent with environmental protection and cultural responsibility.

Equally concerning is the **injustice** of this bill moving forward while the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents scheduled a special meeting on the **exact same issue, on the exact same day, at the exact same time**. This coordinated timing forecloses meaningful public participation and compounds the harm by insulating decision-makers from accountability across multiple forums at once.

Mauna Kea is not merely a parcel of public land. It is a wahi pana of profound cultural, spiritual, and environmental significance. Continued extension of leases without full review, consent, and accountability represents a **continuation of harm** and a failure to uphold the State's fiduciary duties under the public trust doctrine, including its constitutional obligations to protect natural and cultural resources for present and future generations.

NO is NO.

Automatic lease extensions that entrench ongoing harm, bypass cultural protection, and prioritize profit and convenience over people, 'āina, and water are **unjust, unlawful in effect, and fundamentally contrary to pono governance.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to **hold H.B. 2593** and reject any effort to extend Mauna Kea leases without full review, demonstrated compliance, and meaningful public process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:33:15 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua Case	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA,

I AM WRITING IN STRONG OPPOSTION TO BILL 2593 THAT WOULD ALLOW FOR AUTOMATIC TEN YEAR EXTENSIONS ON MAUNA KEA LEASES . CONCERNS INCLUDE THE BYPASSING OF PUBLIC INPUT, PRIORITIZING OBSERVATORIES OVER SACRED AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE, UNDERMINING OF THE MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY, AND ELIMINATING OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW RISKING ECOLOGICAL HARM AND IGNORE ONGOING CULTURAL IMPACT CONCERNS.

PASSING THIS BILL LOCKS IN A HISTORY OF MISMANAGEMENT WITHOUT ACCOUNTABILITY, CONTRADICTS THE SPIRIT AND INTENT ON ACT 255, SILENCES OPPOSITION BEFORE IT CAN BE HEARD, LIMITS THE ABILITY TO ENFORCE CULTURAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS AND SENDS A MESSAGE THAT SACRED LANDS CAN BE OVERRIDDEN FOR SHORT-TERM INTERESTS,

THEREFORE, I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 2593 AS A KANAKA MAOLI, KUMU HULA AND PROTECTOR OF MAUNA KEA.

PUA CASE

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:02:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose HB2593.

I agree with the expert testimony from Debra Ward, below.

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.

Deborah Ward

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:00:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB2593

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

I am writing to respectfully oppose HB2593, which proposes to extend observatory leases on Mauna Kea for ten years.

Mauna Kea holds profound sacred and cultural significance to Native Hawaiians. The principle of mālama 'āina—caring for the land—requires meaningful participation by those who hold the deepest ancestral and spiritual connections to these places. Decisions affecting Mauna Kea benefit from inclusive processes that honor these relationships.

I have concerns about several aspects of this bill:

Public Participation: The proposed lease extensions would occur without the standard public input processes that typically accompany decisions of this magnitude. Public engagement strengthens decision-making and builds community trust.

Stewardship Authority: The Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority was established to provide comprehensive oversight of the mountain. This bill may limit the Authority’s ability to fulfill its intended role in managing these lands.

Environmental Review: Extending leases without environmental review removes an important safeguard for assessing potential ecological impacts on this fragile alpine ecosystem.

Cultural Considerations: Ongoing concerns about cultural impacts deserve continued attention and review. A ten-year extension limits opportunities to address these matters thoughtfully.

Management Flexibility: Long-term lease extensions reduce the ability to adapt management practices as our understanding of conservation needs, cultural protocols, and community values evolves.

Transparency: Standard lease review processes provide transparency that strengthens public confidence in how our shared public lands are managed.

Public Trust Doctrine: As public trust lands, Mauna Kea requires management that balances multiple interests and values. Regular review periods help ensure this balance is maintained.

I respectfully urge you to consider these concerns and allow for a more inclusive, transparent process that honors both the sacred nature of Mauna Kea and the community's right to participate in decisions affecting this treasured place.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Ezgi Green
Waiialua, O'ahu

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:28:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose extending observatory leases and permits for 10 years.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:20:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lama Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha KUSCH, ILAGAN, KAHALOA, KAPELA, KEOHOKAPU-LEE LOY, LOWEN, TARNAS and Members of the Committees,

My name is Lama Chang, a resident of Niu, O‘ahu. I am a descendant of the Kihoi, Davis, Koki, Purdy, and Waipa ‘ohana of Waimea, Hawai‘i Island. I am writing to express my **opposition** to H.B. 2593, which seeks to extend the master lease and all astronomical subleases on Mauna Kea for an additional ten years to 2043.

I oppose this bill for the following reasons:

- No community-driven oversight that was promised.
- Lack of Decommissioning Progress: This extension will delay the return of these lands and diminishes the urgency of environmental cleanup.
- Cultural Disrespect: Mauna Kea is a sacred site. Automatically extending leases "by operation of law" ignores the decades of testimony from Native Hawaiian practitioners who have called for a reduction of the footprint on the summit, not a continuation of the status quo.
- Failure of Stewardship: For decades, audits have shown that the state and the University have failed to protect the natural and cultural resources of the mountain.

I urge the committee to hold this bill and allow the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority to complete its transition and fulfill its mandate to manage these lands in a way that truly honors the people and the environment of Hawai‘i.

Mahalo Nui,

Lama Chang

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:22:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Lorenzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The negative cultural and environmental impacts of these observatories is unconscionable!

Please do NOT renew these leases and/or permits.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:25:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Venus Gonsalves Henriques	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB2593! The Hawaiian people have lost out on millions of dollars, with the \$1 a year for several years as is. No one without kuleana, needs to be on Maunakea (Mauna a wakea)! Stop with chasing the american dollar and start giving the Hawaiian people their lands back! Our people did not need to destroy the aina to learn, following or see the stars. Kapu Aloha! Mauan Kea Strong!

Aloha,

Venus Gonsalves Henriques

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:31:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Malia Nakamura, I am submitting my written testimony opposing Bill HB2593 mainly to NOT be excluded from decisions about sacred lands here. This automatic extension bypasses public input, prioritizes observatories over sacred and cultural significance, it also undermines the Mauna Kea Stewardship and oversight authority.

It would eliminate environmental reviews which could risk ecological harm, it ignores ongoing cultural impact concerns, it also locks in leases which would limit future management flexibility. This favors observatories over community stakeholders and sets a precedent for bypassing public land lease reviews. It would prevent reconsideration of terms like conservation or development limits and reduce transparency and public trust. It completely contradicts the spirit and intent of Act 255, silencing opposition before it can be heard, and limiting the ability to enforce cultural or environmental protections. It would send a message that sacred lands can be overridden for short term interest.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask the committee to oppose Bill HB2593

Sincerely,

Malia Nakamura

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:38:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealani Zayas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the automatic extensions on Mauna Kea leases. Allow the community to have a say & vote on the future of these lands. KEEP HAWAIIAN LANDS IN HAWAIIAN HANDS. ALOHA 'ĀINA. MĀLAMA 'ĀINA.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:57:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Williams	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm sorry I have to be brief. I only have a few minutes to submit this on time. This is also one of the reasons why this needs to be delayed in order to extend the time for the public to submit testimony.

This bill is an outrage. That you would extend licenses and permit for an additional decade without doing any environmental review or public oversight is an absolute abuse of power. It is astounding that Democrats are introducing this Bill, which is so disrespectful to Practitioners of Aloha Aina.

PLEASE KILL THIS BILL!

You work for citizens. You are not an autonomous agency who has endowed themselves with more power than the people.

I worked on the Summit for Gemini Observatory for over a year. There are many issues on the summit that need to be addressed with environmental review and public oversight before any licenses or permits are extended.

Absolutely inexcusable antidemocratic behavior.

lynda

Hilo

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:40:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Nanea Lo** and I’m a lineal descendant of these lands, and I submit this testimony in **strong opposition to HB2593**.

HB2593 seeks to extend observatory leases and permits on Mauna Kea for an additional **ten years**. This proposal is unacceptable. It directly undermines the intent of Act 255, disregards longstanding concerns raised by the Native Hawaiian community, and delays the meaningful transition to a new stewardship framework that was promised and hard-fought.

Mauna Kea is not merely a site for scientific use—it is a sacred wahi pana of profound cultural, spiritual, and ancestral significance. Extending these leases without full accountability, cultural consent, and demonstrated compliance sends a message that Native Hawaiian voices and obligations to mālama Mauna Kea remain secondary to institutional convenience.

A ten-year extension is not a neutral or temporary measure—it is a continuation of harm and an erosion of trust. The people of Hawai‘i were assured that the era of automatic extensions and unchecked authority would end. HB2593 moves us backward, not forward.

There must be real accountability, transparency, and a demonstrated commitment to restoring balance and honoring the cultural and environmental integrity of Mauna Kea before any lease extensions are considered. HB2593 fails to meet that standard.

For these reasons, I respectfully and unequivocally urge you to **OPPOSE HB2593**.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:45:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Please hold/ deny HB2593, which would extend the University's general lease and subleases for observatories on Mauna Kea for 10 years. The leases were ill-advised from the beginning and their termination gives the state a chance to do better. Instead of, again, allowing the University to take the lead on the future of Mauna Kea, the state should hold the University to its promises and take the opportunity to institute reforms through any new lease and not merely extend the existing lease.

Yours,

Bianca Isaki

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:55:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please OPPOSE HB2593. We must stop automatic extensions to Mauna Kea leases. This practice bypasses public input on an issue that the public has made very clear we want to have opportunities to be heard. This bill undermines the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, eliminates environmental review, and ignores ongoing cultural impact concerns.

This is a direct slap in the face to the public trust doctrine on an issue that we are all paying attention to for many years. It sends a message that you don't want to hear from us and that sacred lands can be overridden in backroom deals. Do not exclude kanaka from these conversations that directly impact us by supporting a bill that automates approval.

Mahalo

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:29:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PLEASE DENY THIS BILL TIME AND TIME AGAIN HAS SHOWN MISMANAGEMENT OF ALL GROUPS ON MAUNAKEA. MAKE RIGHT AND JUST FIRST THE WRONGS COMMITTED BEFORE FURTHERING ANYONE UP THERE.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:49:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
E E Keliipuleole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition of HB 2593

'A'ole!!!! OPPOSE!

DO NOT EXTEND the observatory leases and permits for 10 years more. This bypasses the goal of returning Mauna O Wakea above 9,200 feet to its natural state by December 31, 2033. The State has had more than enough time. Why must the State procrastinate and bypass their original goal. **Auwe**. By doing so, it is just another continuation to enable unwanted development on sacred land.

Aloha,

Puna Keliipuleole

2203 Ahe Place, Honolulu HI 96816

Email: paliku7@yahoo.com

February 4, 2026

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:07:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG opposition to **HB2593**.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:23:12 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear committee members, I write to you today in strong opposition of extending observatory leases and permits on Mauna Kea for an additional 10 years. Over the last 10 years we have all seen the vehement opposition to continued building on, and the ongoing desecration of sacred land on Mauna Kea. The state arrested dozens of kupuna who stood bravely to block Mauna Kea access road. We saw the thousands of people that gathered and lived on the mauna to stop the building of TMT and any other development on the Mauna. To extend leases for another 10 years, not only betrays the people of Hawai'i as well as indigenous land and water defenders across world, but it is an extreme bad faith action in behalf of the state, that will further erode the unstable relationship between government and residents across Hawai'i. In a time of authoritarian fascism, and clear ignorance of what consent means, it is not a good practice for our state government to ignore the will of the people who defend this land.

We can mobilize and organize at much faster rates than before, and if this bill passes, that's exactly what can be expected from kia'i.

Mahalo for opposing this unjust and inflammatory bill.

Mariana Monasi

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:56:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahelelani Alohikea-Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I submit my opposition to HB2593.

Mahalo

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:06:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Shaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No extensions. Clean up, clean up well, and enough already.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:32:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Committee Chair Hashem and Members,
 Hawai‘i 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 Hawai‘i 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 hearing my plea,
Susan Bambara

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:12:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing testimony in OPPOSITION to HB2593 that would grant automatic ten year extensions on Mauna Kea leases. Extending leases for 10 years bypasses public input, eliminates environmental review, prioritizes observatories over sacred and cultural significance, and undermines the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority. Having these extensions would severely limit management and flexibility, giving over too much control to people who have proven that the wellbeing of the Mauna, environment, and impact on the culture and people is not of their highest concern. This would prevent reconsideration of terms like conservation or development limits. Mauna Kea is home to many endangered and critical species as well as habitat. If these areas are allowed to have 10 year leases, there is no guaranteed that our critical native habitats and species will be taken care of let alone that they wont be caused any harm throughout the duration of the lease. It is beyond irresponsible to allow this to happen for numerous reasons such as environmental conservation, cultural impact, and the state of our natural resources for the next generations to come. Please protect our 'āina and people and OPPOSE this bill.

Mahalo, Kapulei

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:24:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moani Mahuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Waimea. I am a cultural practitioner, cultural anthropologist, and archaeologist, with my credentials hailing from the University of Hawaii at Hilo and a strong background in native plant restoration. I am testifying in OPPOSITION of HB2593 as it would be a means to circumvent all due process that has already been put in place to mitigate, and manage the stewardship of Mauna Kea. This bill would limit future management of Mauna Kea, bypass the public's input, ignore environmental impact concerns, and limit the ability to enforce cultural and environmental protections of the mountain. Prolonging the observatory leases would be an act of gross negligence to the environmental protection of Mauna Kea and sets a precedent for bypassing public land lease reviews that will have lasting effects on lands other than Mauna Kea. No more leases. No more extension. The original lease was given with the condition that the observatories would be deconstructed at the end of the lease and the land would be returned to its natural state. Honor the original lease agreement and let it expire like it should. Deconstruct all existing observatories and return the land to its natural state. No more new leases! No more extensions! The future of Hawaii's water, life, and water cycles start from Mauna Kea and depend on the protection of that land. I oppose HB2593!

Mahalo

Moani Mahuna

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 2593 (UNLESS AMENDED) RELATING TO MAUNA KEA

Rep Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair
Members
Committee on Water & Land

Hearing: February 5, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit testimony **in opposition to H.B. 2593, unless amended**, due to serious concerns regarding the bill's treatment of subleases for astronomical observatories on Mauna Kea.

I acknowledge that **extending the master lease** of Mauna Kea lands may serve a practical purpose during the ongoing transition to the **Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority**. While not ideal, this provision can be understood as a temporary continuity measure to prevent uncertainty as the new stewardship structure becomes fully operational.

However, **Section 2(b)**—which mandates the automatic ten-year extension of *all* subleases to astronomical observatories **by operation of law**—raises significant policy and governance concerns.

The Legislature created the new stewardship framework to ensure that decisions regarding observatory presence, duration, and conditions would be made through a **deliberative, transparent process**, informed by cultural, environmental, and public trust considerations. Automatically extending subleases in advance of that process **prejudges outcomes that were expressly intended to be evaluated**, and in doing so, undermines the Authority's ability to function as a true land steward.

Although the bill states that stewardship powers are not affected, in practice, **lease duration is one of the most fundamental tools of land management**. Requiring blanket sublease extensions removes meaningful discretion from the Authority and reduces the working group and advisory processes to a procedural formality rather than a substantive decision-making forum.

This approach risks perpetuating the very governance failures that Act 255 (2022) sought to correct and may further erode public trust—particularly among Native Hawaiian communities for whom Mauna Kea is a sacred landscape and a public trust resource.

Suggested Amendments

To align H.B. 2593 with the Legislature's stated intent to restore balanced, accountable stewardship, I respectfully suggest the following amendments:

1. **Delete Section 2(b) in its entirety**, thereby removing the mandatory extension of observatory subleases by statute; **or**
2. **Amend Section 2(b)** to provide that:
 - Subleases *may* be extended **only upon review and approval by the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority**,
 - Following consultation with cultural practitioners, lineal descendants, and the public, and
 - Based on findings related to compliance, environmental performance, cultural impacts, and alignment with the Mauna Kea Comprehensive Management Plan.

These amendments would preserve continuity where appropriate while ensuring that decisions about continued occupancy on Mauna Kea are made through the stewardship process the Legislature itself established.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **oppose H.B. 2593 unless amended** to remove or substantially revise the mandatory sublease extension provision.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Leimomi Khan

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:23:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Haumschild	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Under no circumstances should leases auto renew. Hawaiian lands should remain in Hawaiian hands. Renewal process should explore actual rates, behavior of the leasee, and public input

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:34:23 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duke H.Au Hoon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RELATING TO MAUNA KEA.

As a Aboriginal Descendent of the Kanaka Maoli people of these lands ! That are illegally occupied by the United States, With a fraudulent Illegal treaty of annexation, 133 years of illegal occupation by US governing body the US military & now by the Astronomical Observatories Private group. I strongly oppose Bill HB2593 " Extends for 10 years the master lease of Mauna Kea lands that is set to expire on December 31, 2033. Requires that subleases of Mauna Kea lands to astronomical observatories be extended for 10 years."

To the Astronomical Observatories group You are conducting an illegal process and procedure siding with the United States governing body of the continued illegal overthrow & kidnapping of the Hawaiian people and Lands. destroying our sacred mountain by building your science and military base!

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:26:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Pangilinan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is vital to end leases of Mauna Kea land if you want Hawaii as you know and love it, to survive.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:55:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleleonalani Kekauoha-Schultz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A lease is temporary and one should take care of what is on lease to them for a safe return rather than incur irreparable damage to our land and people. The lease should not be extended. No to hb2593

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:38:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Weisenborn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

Majalo for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB2593. I oppose HB2593 at this time because it fails to consult with or invite to the discussion Native Hawaiian groups about their input towards management of this area indicated in this house bill on Mauna Kea. As known, there are many cultural and archaeological sites all over Mauna Kea where Native Hawaiian groups have management and protective rights over these resources. It is in the best intest that any discussion regarding further management of Mauna Kea, including the extension of leases, requires at a minimum consultation with Native Hawaiian groups. In addition to protected archaeological and cultural sites there are rare threatened and endangered special that should also require additional consultation with DLNR/DOFAW agencies on the potential environmental impacts to these species if current and future management practices are allowed to occur. Let's not also forget that Mauna Kea possess the main aquifer for the island providing drinking water for many residents and that no thorough environmental assessment has occurred to assess the potential risks if further astrological activity is allowed to occur. Please delay any approval of this bill until native Hawaii groups and environment groups, including state managing environmental division that manage natural resources on Mauna Kea, can occur and their input is documented and reported. Mahalo for you time.

Aloha,

Kim Weisenborn

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:04:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to implore our state leaders to stop automatic ten year extensions on Mauna Kea leases. The mauna is sacred and there should be no leases, but if there are going to be leases, I think the public deserves an opportunity to share their input and hold leasees accountable. Mahalo!

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:27:16 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ekini Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Hashem and Committee members, I stand in strong opposition to HB2593 as it contradicts the principles of Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) 171-36 and undermines the vital trustee responsibilities of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the oversight role of the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA). This bill sidesteps the statutory authority governing conservation district lands, ignores trustee duties, and circumvents environmental review requirements under HRS Chapter 343, which necessitates an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for conservation district leases. Notably, no lease extension application or EIS has been submitted for the astronomy lease. I urge you to reject the advancement of this bill immediately!!

Thank you for considering my account

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:45:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meadow Dawn Stassens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the Hawai'i state legislature,

My name is Meadow Dawn Stassens and I live in Na'alehu, HI 96772

I urge you to oppose bill HB2593. Extending leases for 10 years would set a dangerous precedent for bypassing public land lease reviews and public input, would limit the ability to enforce cultural and environmental protections, reduces transparency and public trust, and eliminates environmental review, risking ecological harm.

Native Hawaiians must not be excluded from decisions about their sacred land!

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:55:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nick crowley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not allow this bill to move forward. It continues a terrible tradition of eradicating native voices and ownership of land. Mistreating the environment and all it entails has proven again and again to not be good for any longtime view of the future. STOP the short term greed and grift of the corrupt minority in positions of power. If these actions persist, there will be no more table to come to. You will find yourself out of options or titles to hide behind. The people will take action of the revolution kind.

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:36:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James L. Trasport, Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Jimmy Trasport. I'm a resident of Honoka'a on the Island of Hawai'i, and a member of the Green Party. I'm writing to voice my strong opposition to HB2593, which extends the master lease of Mauna Kea lands and subleases for astronomical observatories for another 10 years, all the way until December 31, 2043.

Lease extensions should only be granted after a thorough, fair, and transparent public process which accounts for public input and comprehensive review of the cultural, environmental and scientific interests involved.

Instead, this bill prioritizes observatories and institutions over Kānaka Maoli sacred sites and cultural significance, bypasses public input, and undermines the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority and the purpose of Act 255, which intended for MKSOA to manage Mauna Kea by balancing cultural, environmental and scientific interests. It also eliminates environmental review and ignores ongoing cultural impact concerns. Finally, it locks in the leases, thereby limiting future adjustments, and sets a terrible precedent for bypassing the review of future public lands leases.

Please reject HB2593.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimmy Trasport
Honoka'a, Hawai'i 96727

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:55:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serafina Gajate	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely oppose this measure. The astronomy industry has had free reign on Mauna Kea for far too long, destroying sensitive ecosystems and long-standing cultural practices of stewardship. Enough is enough. They have raked in millions of dollars of personal profit while our local communities struggle to make ends meet. End the leases and renegotiate now!

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:25:30 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laulani Teale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

'A'OLE.

Today, I am submitting the simple message above.

Please do not make me need to expand it.

We have better things to do than to fight this.

Aloha,

Laulani

HB-2593

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:48:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/5/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Ka?aha?aina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. We need to STOP automatically providing extensions on Mauna Kea leases. These places are WAHIPANA and the continued desecration of these sacred places needs to stop. I STRONGLY STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL and all bills that continue the desecration of our 'āina and ka po'e o Hawai'i.