



Board of Regents &lt;bor@hawaii.edu&gt;

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## Testimony

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**John Hamilton** <jch@hawaii.edu>

Wed, Apr 15, 2015 at 9:29 AM

To: bor@hawaii.edu

Cc: "John C. Hamilton" &lt;jch@hawaii.edu&gt;

Aloha,

I would like to add my voice to this important issue. I personally have spent likely more hours on the summit that most of the other testifiers. I have served UH by operating telescopes at the NASA IRTF, CFHT and Gemini along with observing at UKIRT, Gemini and the UH 24 inch and the UHH Hoku Kea. I have done this for over 26 years continuous work, seeing a different sunset and sunrise each day. I have a personal love for the mountain and the summit areas.

I sincerely believe that observatories are in a proper place as seekers of knowledge and are culturally appropriate for modern Hawaiian and Hawaii society. This is my opinion. I am not native Hawaiian, however my family is and all of my descendents will be native Hawaiian.

I also have heard this opinion shared by other native Hawaiians (scientists, cultural practitioners and lay people).

I also believe that the core issue is found in history with the ceded lands and (lack of) Hawaiian Sovereignty. But there are also many other more important and valuable assets and issues that are around. Such as the other ceded lands (harbors, airports, etc) as well as US federal control of the volcano via the National Park System. Astronomy and Mauna Kea is being used as a lightning rod for the other broader issues. Support of one does not mean nonsupport of others. One can support Hawaiian culture, yet not practice the various Hawaiian religious practices. Some would disagree.

I do not think that UH should be managing the leased (and ceded) lands there. They have a lease from DLNR, DLNR should be managing and addressing issues. It has the appearance of impropriety and is like the fox guarding the hen house. UH should be following the rules of DLNR, but leave the enforcement and challenges to DLNR. This is my opinion.

It is very odd that the Astronomy department here at UH-Hilo is a flagship program, with an undergraduate telescope on the summit and is the most pono place to train and educate our citizens in the ancient science of astronomy to better prepare them for the high-tech and good wage jobs. Yet at the same time there is such an anti-science atmosphere on campus, intimidation of students who study astronomy and such a lack of support from central figures. Either we should have an excellent astronomy program here at UH-Hilo that is supported by the campus, or we should decide it is not appropriate and cancel it totally. It cannot exist and thrive in the current ambivalent conditions.

In conclusion I attach a news blurb about an event 50 years ago that occurred on this very campus. Here is where it started.

Mahalo for allowing me to share my manao with you.

Sincerely  
John Hamilton

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John Hamilton - Instructor  
UHH Physics & Astronomy

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Kuiper.JPG  
172K

## October 9

### 1964

Dr. Gerald P. Kuiper, one of the foremost interpreters of the Ranger 7 moon photos, is due back on the Big Island this weekend for another look at the test telescope on Mauna Kea and the lava fields of Mauna Loa.

Dr. Kuiper, director of the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory of the University of Arizona, which is conducting the Mauna Kea telescope test, said Mauna Loa's lava fields resemble the landscape of the moon more than any place he's seen on earth.

The National Aeronautical and Space Agency will bring its team of astronaut trainees to the Big Island, reportedly in January, for

on-the-spot studies of the geology of volcanoes.

Dr. Kuiper will speak Monday night at the University of Hawaii at Hilo campus cafetorium during a public meeting sponsored by alumni and friends of the U.H.H.C.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Dr. Kuiper will be accompanied by Dr. Gilbert Fielder, a British astronomer.

*This Day in History is compiled by Brandon Haleamau for the Tribune-Herald using newspaper archives. Whenever possible, the news accounts provided in this column were taken verbatim from the newspaper.*