



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Water and Land  
Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

By  
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And  
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### HB 544 – MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT MAUNAKEA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and members of the House Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 544. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) writes in support of this bill which seeks to provide capital improvement funds for the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the purposes of the University of Hawai'i to decommission the Hōkū Ke'a telescope from the summit of Maunakea.

This measure is aligned with UH Hilo's plans, pursuant to the direction of the UH Board of Regents, to decommission the Hōkū Ke'a telescope. Decommissioning will include the complete removal of all man-made structures at the Hōkū Ke'a site and bringing the site to as close as feasible to its natural state prior to commission.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony and fully support this bill.