Aloha,

The undersigned Maunakea Observatories’ directors thank the legislature for their ongoing efforts on the complex issues involved in the future stewardship of Maunakea. We are grateful to the legislature for being responsive to the core needs of the observatories through our testimonies at the house and senate committee hearings leading up to the conference committee deliberations on HB2024.

We seek a community-based mutual stewardship model which will allow astronomy to thrive alongside other interests, sensitive to the needs of the local community. We share the attached core principles for future management of Maunakea that we believe will enable our observatories to be successful and to continue to contribute meaningfully to the people of Hawaii and the world.

We feel a mutual stewardship model reflects and is strongly aligned with the astronomy profession’s broader aspirations. The recently published Astro2020 Decadal Survey[1], a strategic document commissioned by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine that provides a roadmap of astronomy priorities over the next 10 years, informs Congress and federal agencies, and presents a powerful vision for a community model of astronomy. We have attached key relevant excerpts of the report for your reference.
Should your committee produce a bill that aligns with our core principles and supports the vision of the community model of astronomy described in Astro2020, we will look forward to collaborating and participating to make it a success for all.

Mahalo nui loa,

Hilton Lewis, Director, W. M. Keck Observatory

Satoshi Miyazaki – Interim Director, Subaru Telescope

Jennifer Lotz – Director, Gemini Observatory

Paul Ho – Director General, East Asian Observatory

Patricia Henning – VLBA Director/Asst. Director for New Mexico Operations

Attachments:
1. Astro2020 Excerpts supporting community model of astronomy
2. Principles for the future management of Astronomical facilities on Maunakea
3. MKO testimony to House
4. MKO testimony to Senate Higher Education subcommittee
5. MKO testimony to Senate Ways and Means subcommittee