



**To:** Senator Donna Mercado Kim      Representative David A. Tarnas  
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran      Representative Mark Nakashima  
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha      Representative Patrick Pihana Branco  
Senator Kurt Fevella      Representative Stacelynn K.M. Eli  
Representative Bob McDermott

**From:** The Directors of:  
W. M. Keck Observatory      East Asian Observatory  
Subaru Telescope      VLBA  
Gemini Observatory

**Date:** April 25, 2022

**Subject: HB2024 HD1-SD2 Relating to Mauna Kea**

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<sup>[1]</sup>, 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

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<sup>[1]</sup> *Astro2020 Decadal Survey State of the Profession and Societal impacts, Section 3.4.1 Engagement with Local and Indigenous Communities: The Model of Community Based Science.*  
<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/26141/interactive/>