MAUNAKEA WORKING GROUP BILL HB2024

ABOUT

- Establishes a new Authority with land disposition powers, i.e. granting leases
- Mutual stewardship paradigm. Astronomy is declared a policy of the state consistent with this paradigm.
- 11 members: BLNR Chair, Hawai‘i County Mayor, UH Regents Chair, land resource expert, education expert, Maunakea Observatories representative, business/finance expert, lineal descendant of Maunakea practitioner, recognized cultural practitioner, House-appointed member, Senate-appointed member, and UH Hilo Chancellor (non-voting)

- Grounded in Hawaiian values:
  - Mauna Aloha: Commitment to maintaining the integrity of the mauna.
  - Opu Kupuna: Duty and accountability to Maunakea, and to perpetuate Native Hawaiian practices.
  - Holomua Oi Kelakela: Stewardship informed by traditional as well as new knowledge without jeopardizing the cultural foundation.
- 5-year transition completed in 2028. Moratorium on new leases during transition
- Establishes limitations on astronomy development, prioritizes re-use over developing new sites, and sets principles for returning land to its natural state when observatories are decommissioned or no longer have research or educational value
- Reserves a minimum of 7% observing time for UH, prioritizing programs that involve Hawai‘i students or projects curated by 'Imiloa Astronomy Center
- Authority may establish admin rules
- Subject to land-use and administrative laws of the state. For example, contested cases apply
- Timely decommissioning of CSO and Hōkū Kea
- $14M appropriation for transition planning and hiring of secretary to the Authority
- $350K for 'Imiloa Astronomy Center for K-12 public education programs in astronomy-related fields