

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND WATER & LAND

Hawaii State Legislature  
February 9, 2018

Senate Bill 3090 SD1 Proposed  
Relating to Government

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Kim, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committees,

The Ka Lāhui Hawaii Political Action Committee (KPAC) opposes SB 3090 SD1 Proposed which establishes the Kea Management Authority (MKMA) governed by nine select individuals and transfers title to 11,400 acres of Mauna Kea Summits to the MKMA.

The proposed SB 3090 would solidify the State’s authority over our most sacred and historic mountain through the creation of the Mauna Kea Management Authority (MKMA) giving over the governance and management of 11,400 acres of Mauna Kea lands to just nine individuals some of whom would be appointed by the Governor and Legislative leaders. The selection process and criteria for membership in the MKMA excludes the vast majority of Kanaka Maoli cultural practitioners and groups and does not require any of the nine voting members to have any expertise in Kanaka Maoli traditional and customary practices on Mauna Kea.

This Bill gives the MKMA the power to *exploit* and limit access to the Mauna Kea summits (which have spiritual and cultural significance to the native people of this land) through the establishment of entrance fees and management rules and regulations. Entrance fees for cultural practitioners could be waived, but it is not clear if access will be allowed for customary and traditional practices only during visitor center normal operating hours.

Although this bill puts a limit to the number of telescopes allowed on Mauna Kea, it may not affect the number of industrial developments allowed and provides a clear pathway for the TMT to be built by allowing MKMA rules to supercede conservation land use designation rules. Taking Mauna Kea out of under the conservation land use designation rules removes much needed safeguards that help protect Kanaka Maoli (and public) rights and resources.

Finally, the creation of the MKMA undermines pending litigation regarding the future of sacred Mauna Kea and its fragile environments and sidesteps powerful efforts of Kanaka Maoli and the public toward healing and resolution.

As of 12:45 pm today there were at least 634 testimonies in opposition to SB 3090 SD1 Proposed with 444 of them being registered voters in Hawai‘i and 366 of them were Kanaka Maoli.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale  
Chair, KPAC