



BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 11, 2020

Senate Bill 42 SD1
Relating to the Attorney General

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i Political Action Committee (KPAC) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 42 SD1 which prohibits the attorney general from investigating nonprofit organizations for exercising their constitutional right to free speech and assembly, protecting constitutional grants of rights, and/or traditional and customary Kanaka Maoli cultural rights.

This Senate Bill 42 SD1 is timely. Under this administration many efforts have been made to criminalize the peaceful protectors of Mauna Kea who have been occupying Pu'u Huluhulu and the Mauna Kea Access road since July of 2019. The attorney general is abusing her power and authority by targeting nonprofits and other organizations that have given support for the welfare, health and safety for the protectors of Mauna Kea. Penalizing nonprofits and organizations for caring for our community who are exercising their constitutionally protected right to assemble and free speech and basic human right (which are encoded in international law) to protect cultural, religious, and spiritual practices, and access to sacred sites is oppressive and unjust. Furthermore, the members of our community who are protecting Mauna Kea are our neighbors, tax paying citizens, members of our clubs, and/or registered to vote.

The targeting of the supporters of the protectors of Mauna Kea is an attempt by the state to not only criminalize the protectors and supporters of Mauna Kea but to also discourage future support that has sustained an organized, unified and peaceful movement for over 6 months.

We urge you to stop this unjustified investigation by the attorney general and this administration which violates the rights of the protectors and supporters of Mauna Kea. Requesting items like the ATM transactions footage of the KAHEA (the Hawaiian Environmental Alliance) takes the Ige administration to an embarrassingly new low of racist tactics that target mainly Kanaka Maoli and Kanaka Maoli allies who support Mauna Kea, a mountain that is sacred to the Native people of this land.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale
Chair, Ka Lāhui Hawai'i - Komike Kalai'āina