



Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce

1321 Kino'ole Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone: (808) 935-7178
Fax: (808) 961-4435
E-mail: admin@hicc.biz
www.hicc.biz

Executive Officer
Miles Yoshioka

October 26, 2020

**2020-2021
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University of Hawai'i Board of Regents
2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall, Room 209
Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: Teaching telescope at Halepōhaku

Aloha members of the Board of Regents,

The Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, formed in 1898 by the business community of the Island of Hawai'i has continued to be a dedicated supporter of the scientific and particularly astronomical enterprises on Maunakea. Nearly 300 members strong, our chamber members represent both large and small businesses, professionals and non-profit organizations.

We support the proposed relocation of the University of Hawaii's teaching telescope to a site at Halepōhaku for the following reasons:

- We recognize Maunakea for its cultural and scientific significance and must be thoughtful of how the area is utilized. The new telescope will be supported by existing infrastructure at Halepōhaku and connected to an existing building.
- Having this teaching telescope at the mid-level facility will allow more Hawai'i K-12 students to participate in astronomy research who would not be able to do so at the summit of the mountain.
- Making this opportunity available for students and our community would support Maunakea's world-class status and efforts in astronomical studies.
- The new location is ideal to its proximity to UH Hilo.

Thank you for this opportunity to express our support for this effort. As many would agree, a "hands-on" experience would enhance a "classroom" experience and better prepare our students training in astronomical observing techniques, scientific research and similar fields.

Sincerely,

Miles Yoshioka, Executive Officer

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