



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®
SYSTEM

Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i

Gabriel Lee
Chair, Board of Regents

Wendy F. Hensel
President

December 5, 2025

Chair John Komeiji
Mr. John De Fries
Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority
(MKSOA)
640 N. A'ohōkū Place
Hilo, HI 96720

jkomeiji1@gmail.com
john.defries@hawaii.gov

Dear Chair Komeiji and Mr. De Fries:
Thank you for your thoughtful letter of November 30, 2025.

We are encouraged by the steps forward identified by the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) and appreciate your acknowledgement of the critical nature of the timeline for lease renewals on Maunakea. We share your commitment to acting with urgency while honoring transparency and engagement. The University is dedicated to the stewardship of Maunakea and the long-term preservation of its precious natural, cultural, and astronomy resources.

Nevertheless, we remain concerned about funding and the development of meaningful timelines for lease renewals. To that end, we are committed to continued engagement and appreciate your kind invitation to attend your MKSOA Board Meeting on December 11, 2025.

Unfortunately, neither of us is available at that time. As you note, Director Simons, Dr. Greg Chun, and Chancellor Irwin will be available. They are able to answer questions about the letter and the ongoing work of the Joint Management Committee, as well as ensure that the MKSOA members (as noted in Footnote 5 of our letter) and the public have been briefed about concerns regarding the financial viability of astronomy (and stewardship of Maunakea). As you know, and as noted in our letter, Act 255 requires that MKSOA adopt a financial plan that strives for financial "self-sustainability", i.e., no general funding, by 2035, so we believe this is another shared concern.

UH has consistently demonstrated our commitment to progress and sustained communication as demonstrated by our discussions on the Joint Management Committee, meetings between staff of the Center for Maunakea Stewardship and MKSOA, meetings of our permitted interaction groups, and other meetings we hope

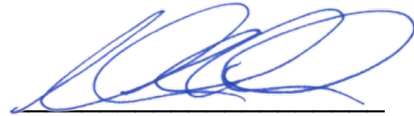
Chair Komeiji and Mr. De Fries

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to schedule. We look forward to continuing to work together to move the transition along expeditiously and find solutions that are in the best interests of the identified priorities of this state.

Very Truly Yours,



Gabriel Lee
Chair, Board of Regents

Wendy F. Hensel
President

c: Governor Josh Green, M.D.
U.S. Senator Mazie Hirono
U.S. Senator Brian Schatz
U.S. Representative Ed Case
U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda
BLNR Chair Dawn Chang
Board of Regents Maunakea Permitted Interaction Group Members
Regent Wayne Higaki
Regent Neil Abercrombie
Regent Lauren Akitake
Regent Mike Miyahira