



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

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**STATEMENT OF ATTORNEY GENERAL DOUG CHIN RELATING
TO THE PROTESTS ON MAUNA KEA**

HONOLULU – Attorney General Doug Chin today released the following statement with respect to the protests on Mauna Kea:

“We respect those who choose to exercise their First Amendment rights within the boundaries of the law. What the State cannot allow is for people to take the law into their own hands. Our courts are the proper place for people to seek legal remedies.

Mauna Kea is a protected conservation district, forest reserve and hunting area. While we appreciate the effort of volunteers who helped clean up the summit road, the actions of certain individuals in the past week led to the University of Hawaii’s closure of the road. Deliberately building a rock wall in the middle of a road without warning threatens public safety. Purposely placing boulders in a road could get someone killed. Commercial activities and camping in this protected area without a permit are against State regulations. This is not a statement against the content of the protest, but the conduct.

I am working with the Governor, the University of Hawaii, and the departments of land and natural resources and public safety and will take all lawful steps to see the road re-opened with safe access to all.”

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For more information, contact:

Joshua A. Wisch
Special Assistant to the Attorney General
(808) 586-1284
Joshua.A.Wisch@hawaii.gov
<http://ag.hawaii.gov>