

Property of the  
Sierra Club

**REVISED MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
*For The*  
**UH MANAGEMENT AREAS ON MAUNA KEA**  
*Mauna Kea, Hamakua, Hawaii*

**State of Hawaii**  
**Department of Land and Natural Resources**

and

**University of Hawaii**  
**Institute for Astronomy**

Approved by the  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

March 10, 1995

## **PREFACE**

This revised public access management plan supersedes and replaces the Management Plan approved by the BLNR on February 22, 1985 in CDUA HA-1573. This revised plan differs from the plan approved in 1985 in the following manner:

- \* Management and enforcement of public and commercial use of Mauna Kea is the responsibility of DLNR--except for specific rights reserved to UH.
- \* Permitted commercial uses and management controls are incorporated in the Plan.
- \* Some controls are eliminated and/or modified and new ones added to reflect UH's experience in the past ten years, especially since the major portion of the road has been paved. The primary criterion for controls, however, has been and continues to be public safety.

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## ***PART I: OVERVIEW***

### **A. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Mauna Kea belongs to the people of Hawaii and its resources should be available for all to enjoy. It is important that these resources are carefully managed in order to protect them from overuse and damage. Authority for the management and control of Mauna Kea is derived from the policies set forth in the following: General Lease No. S-4191 between the BLNR and UH; the 1977 DLNR Mauna Kea Plan; DLNR Administrative Rules, Title 13, Chapter 2; and conditions imposed by the BLNR on various Conservation District Use Permits. The purpose of incorporating a management plan as an integral part of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve Complex Development Plan (SRCDP) is to protect the natural and cultural attributes of the summit area while at the same time allowing development and use of its scenic and recreation resources in a responsible, conservation oriented manner.

When the SRCDP was prepared in 1983, it was assumed that actions proposed in that Plan, particularly paving the summit access road, would generate increased public use of the summit area. After publication of the conceptual management plan, UH continued to discuss the various aspects with DLNR divisions, County representatives, the general public, and representatives of environmental and recreational groups. The 1983 Plan was then modified to address issues brought out during these discussions and to incorporate recommendations on the best means to monitor and control uses. The modified Management Plan was approved by the BLNR in 1985 (CDUA HA 1573). It made UH responsible for managing and monitoring its specified Management Areas.

Since the approval of the Management Plan by the BLNR in 1985, local and visitor interest in Mauna Kea has increased. Currently, about 30 visitor vehicles visit the summit on a daily basis. This number increases to more than 150 on weekends when there is snow. In addition, there has been an increase in commercial operators who have expressed an interest in bringing visitors to Mauna Kea for various attractions and recreation activities. Commercial tours to the UH Management Areas average about one vehicle per day at the present time.

CDUP HA 1573 gives the University both the permission and the responsibility to implement the Management Plan in a manner which is both timely and consistent with the level of public interest. As the interest in Mauna Kea increased, the question of commercial uses led to several years' discussions with DLNR concerning management and enforcement responsibilities. Although UH has assumed these responsibilities, over the years it has become evident that UH was not structured to manage, control and enforce rules involving public recreation activities. In addition, with regard to commercial operators, UH does not have a process in place to issue permits and enforce permit conditions. It was determined that management and enforcement responsibilities--unless they were directly related to astronomy facilities, including the Mauna Kea Access Road--should be transferred back to DLNR. Because of their presence on the mountain, UH personnel would continue to assist DLNR in educating visitors on the hazards of high-altitude driving, responding to emergencies and monitoring infractions. It was decided that regulating commercial activities should be the sole responsibility of DLNR.

This revised plan differs from the plan approved in CDUA HA-1573 in the following manner:

- \* Management and enforcement of public and commercial use of Mauna Kea is the responsibility of DLNR--except for specific rights reserved to UH.

- \* Permitted commercial uses and management controls are incorporated in the Plan.
- \* Some controls are eliminated and/or modified and new ones added to reflect UH's experience in the past ten years, especially since the major portion of the road has been paved. The primary criterion for controls, however, has been and continues to be public safety.

**B. OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES**

The objectives of the plan are to:

- \* Safeguard the health and safety of visitors.
- \* Protect the astronomical qualities of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve.
- \* Preserve the natural features of the UH Management areas.
- \* Protect the biological and historical/cultural resources of the area;
- \* Enhance the experience of visitors to Hale Pohaku and the summit;

Guidelines used in the development of the commercial aspects of this Plan are:

- \* To define and describe acceptable commercial uses within the UH Management Area.
- \* To ensure that commercial activities do not endanger public health and safety or infringe on the public's enjoyment of Mauna Kea.
- \* To establish appropriate general conditions to be followed by all commercial operators who use Mauna Kea's resources.

Elements of the Management Plan that follow are based on these objectives and guidelines.

**C. AREA AFFECTED BY THE PLAN**

As shown on the attached Figure, the UH Management Area includes:

- \* The Mauna Kea Science Reserve (Tax Map Key 4-4-15: 09)
- \* A 19.3-acre site at Hale Pohaku (CDUP No. HA-1819, Tax Map Key 4-4-15: 12) encompassing the Onizuka Center for International Astronomy (OCIA), the Visitor Information Station, and the construction camp
- \* The summit access road from the OCIA at Hale Pohaku to the Science Reserve boundary at the approximately 12,000-foot elevation, including a corridor approximately 400 yards on either side of the improved road (except for portions of this corridor which fall within the boundary of the Natural Area Reserve).

## D. RESOURCES TO BE PROTECTED

### 1.0 *Astronomical Qualities*

Mauna Kea is world-renowned as an excellent site for ground-based astronomy. Management concerns involve interference to observations by auto headlights and other artificial light sources, vandalism, dust, aircraft, electronic interference, and heat from - and obscuration by - structures built in the observatory area.

### 2.0 *Flora*

**Mauna Kea Science Reserve.** Lichens, mosses and some flowering plants are found within the Science Reserve. Although the area is not a unique habitat essential for the survival of plants growing there, it provides opportunities to observe and study the ability of some Hawaiian plant species to survive at extremes of moisture, temperature and substrate. Disturbance by casual hikers and off-road vehicles can affect the flora.

**Hale Pohaku.** The facilities at Hale Pohaku are located within the boundaries of the Mamane/Naio Forest Eco-System Management Area which was established by the 1977 DLNR Mauna Kea Plan. The dominant vegetation in the area is mamane (*Sophora chrysophylla*) trees, the major food source of a number of bird species, including the rare and endangered Palila (*Psittirostra bairdii*). Increased foot traffic in the vicinity of the Information Station may affect the flora in the area.

### 3.0 *Fauna*

**Mauna Kea Science Reserve.** The fauna on Mauna Kea summit area consists primarily of arthropods; some species may not be found elsewhere in the State. Disturbance by casual hikers and off-road vehicles can affect their habitats.

**Hale Pohaku.** Hale Pohaku is within the critical habitat of the rare and endangered Palila. This habitat extends to the 10,000-foot elevation and encompasses almost all of the Conservation district land on Mauna Kea. Disturbance of breeding birds would be expected to have a serious effect on the productivity of this species. In addition, littering could attract rats and feral cats, known avian predators. Destruction of habitat by fire is also a concern.

### 4.0 *Historic/Cultural/Natural History*

**UH Management Areas.** Archaeological reconnaissance surveys of portions of the Science Reserve were conducted by Bishop Museum in 1982 and 1984. The forty sites located were collectively given the state site number 50-10-23 10228. A significant historic site - Pu`u Kalepaoa - is located near the UH Management Area at Hale Pohaku.

UH is implementing an Historic Preservation Management Plan for the UH Management Areas. This Plan is being developed in close consultation with the DLNR Historic Preservation Division.

**Natural Area Reserve.** Management of the NAR is the responsibility of the Natural Area Reserves Commission and DLNR. Important resources within the Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve (NAR) include: the Keanakakoi Adze Quarry, an extensive center of ancient Hawaiian adze manufacturing; Lake Waiau, a significant geological feature of the area regarded by Hawaiians as a sacred place and a cultural link with the past; and other geological features, such as Pu`u Hau Kea, that are valuable for their aesthetic attributes.

## **PART II: USES**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Permitted uses are classified into two categories: public and commercial. The general public includes both individuals and organized groups where there is no fee involved. Commercial uses are fee-for-service organized activities.

### **B. PERMITTED PUBLIC USES**

#### **1.0 Recreational Activities**

**Skiing, Sledding and Snowplay.** These uses are specifically allowed in the 1977 DLNR Mauna Kea Plan. The activities may be controlled and/or restricted when the number of participants and/or inclement weather conditions might compromise public health and safety.

**Hiking.** Hiking in the UH Management Areas is restricted to existing roads and trails. Hikers are expected to dress appropriately for mountain weather and be aware of the risks inherent in high-altitude hiking.

**Sight-seeing.** Private vehicles are permitted within the Science Reserve during daylight hours. They must stay on existing roads and must not interfere with astronomy activities. Access may be controlled and/or restricted during periods of heavy visitor or construction traffic, inclement weather or unique events such as the 1991 solar eclipse.

**Amateur Astronomy.** Amateur astronomy involving nighttime observations is permitted at the Visitor Information Station. Amateur astronomy within the summit area may be permitted providing it does not interfere with other astronomy activities; this is subject to approval by UH IfA on a case-by-case basis.

**Hunting.** The lease between UH and BLNR allows daytime hunting within the Mauna Kea Science Reserve, pursuant to the rules and regulations of the Board. The lease states, however, that this activity must be coordinated with the activities of UH. The 1977 DLNR Mauna Kea Plan states that..."the public hunting areas will include the entire mountain, exclusive of the Science Reserve Management Area and safety zones around facilities."

#### **2.0 Educational Activities**

**Mauna Kea Observatories Telescopes.** Visits to the telescopes on Mauna Kea are permitted during official UH sponsored tours or by permission of the individual facilities associated with the Mauna Kea Observatories.

**Nature Study Tours.** Private groups may use the UH Management Areas to observe flora, fauna, cultural and natural features of the mountain. These groups are subject to the same controls and restrictions as recreationists - such as remaining on existing roads and trails. Trips to the NAR are subject to the conditions and regulations of the Natural Area Reserve Commission.

**Visitor Information Station Programs.** Mauna Kea Observatories' sponsored public education programs for school groups and other members of the general public and evening star-gazing are permitted uses. Private groups may also be permitted to use the Information Station after closing hours for similar uses.

### **3.0 Cultural Activities**

Cultural activities which are otherwise consistent with this plan and do not involve physical impacts are permitted. These activities will normally be restricted to daylight hours; special permission may be granted by UH and DLNR for night activities.

## **C. PERMITTED COMMERCIAL USES**

### **1.0 Seasonal Commercial Activities.**

These uses will take place only when there is sufficient snow to allow the activity. Although they normally take place in the winter months, skiing and snowplay have occurred throughout the year.

**Downhill Skiing Tours.** This activity involves transporting individuals and groups to the skiing areas on Mauna Kea for a fee. Some groups may be accompanied by a paid ski instructor. In many cases, the driver/guide also provides uphill transportation during the ski tour, shuttling them to the top of the slopes and picking them up again at the bottom.

**Snowplay/Sledding Tours.** A fee for service arrangement wherein the tour operator takes individuals and/or groups to Mauna Kea for snowplay and sledding activities. Some tour groups may be accompanied by a guide.

**Cross-Country Skiing.** A fee for service arrangement wherein the tour operator drops individuals and/or groups at a point somewhere above the downslope edge of the snow and picks them up later at a pre-determined time and place after they have hiked on skis over the snow-covered portions of the management area. A guide may accompany the tour customers during this activity.

**Ski Meets, Ski Races and Other Snowplay Events.** Special events such as ski meets and ski races will be permitted on a case-by-case basis. Although these events may be sponsored by non-profit groups, the permit requirements will be the same as for commercial operators.

### **2.0 Non-Seasonal Commercial Activities.**

These activities can take place at any time of the year.

**Hiking Tours.** Hiking activities (including bird-watching and nature study) within the UH Management Area which involve a paid guide and/or commercially provided transportation.

**Sight-seeing Tours.** Commercial tours which stop at the Visitor Information Station and continue up the mountain but do not actually enter the telescope buildings. These activities include sight-seeing, photography and picnicking.

**Daytime Tours That Include Telescope Facilities at the Summit.** Permission to conduct these tours would be granted on a case-by-case basis in coordination with UH and with the individual telescope facilities.



**Nighttime Tours To Hale Pohaku.** Commercially sponsored tours to the Visitor Information Station at night to observe through the UH or visitor's own telescope(s). Permission to conduct these tours would be granted on a case-by-case basis in coordination with UH.

**Film-Making.** Commercial activities involving still photography, TV and movie filming other than that associated with news coverage or astronomical activities. Permission to engage in this activity will be granted on a case-by-case basis by the Film Branch of the State Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, after concurrence is obtained from DLNR and UH.

### ***3.0 Commercial Uses Accessory To Permitted Uses.***

**Concessions at UH Facilities.** The selling of astronomy-related items and the operation of other concessions - by UH IfA or MKSS - at the Information Station and at other UH facilities within the Management Area covered by this plan.

**Shuttle Service.** Operation of an Information Station based service - by UH IfA, MKSS or a concessionaire - to shuttle visitors to the summit for various activities and events. A fee will be charged for this service.

## **D. PROHIBITED USES**

### ***1.0 "Off-Road" Vehicles***

Recreational activities involving "off-road" vehicles are not allowed. This restriction applies to both the general public and commercial tour operators and their customers. These vehicles include: motorcycles, dune buggies, snowmobiles, and 4-wheel-drive passenger vehicles, vans and trucks. Note: this restriction only applies to recreational activities. Vehicles such as snowmobiles and 4-wheel drives can be driven "off-road" for emergency rescue and medical purposes.

### ***2.0 Commercial Hunting Tours***

Hunting tours are not allowed within the UH Management Area.

## **PART III: MANAGEMENT AND CONTROLS**

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

Astronomy-related uses in the UH Management Area are controlled by the 1977 DLNR Mauna Kea Plan, the Hale Pohaku Master Plan, the SRCDP, and the CDUA process. Visitor access and use is controlled as set forth below.

### **B. PHYSICAL FACILITIES**

#### **1.0 Visitor Information Station**

A Visitor Information Station--with toilet facilities--is located at Hale Pohaku, just upslope from the construction camp. The Station--which contains exhibits of the natural and cultural resources of the mountain and has information available about the hazards which may be encountered at higher elevations--is usually open only on weekends. UH is attempting to obtain funding for several guide/ranger positions, which would permit expanded seven-day per week operation of the Station. When this occurs, all visitors will be asked to stop at the Station before proceeding up the mountain.

#### **2.0 Telescope at Hale Pohaku**

UH intends to install a 20-inch telescope housed in a dome at the Visitor Information Station and to expand its night-time star-gazing programs for the general public.

#### **3.0 Parking Areas**

**Science Reserve.** Currently there are two paved visitor parking lots, totalling 34 spaces, within the Science Reserve. Additional parking can be accommodated along the paved shoulders of the Access Road, near telescope facilities and in unpaved areas near the batch plant.

**Visitor Information Station.** There are 23 parking spaces available adjacent to the Station. Overflow parking can be accommodated in the unpaved Construction Camp parking lot or at the lower parking lot of the Astronomers' Mid-Level Facility.

### **C. CONTROLS**

#### **1.0 Overview**

These controls are being instituted to protect the health, safety and enjoyment of all visitors to the UH Management Area, whether they are individuals and families, members of an organized group or members of a commercial tour. They are also intended to protect the natural resources of the mountain from unwarranted disturbance. The general controls in Section 2.0 apply to all visitors, whether members of the general public or commercial tours. Sections 3.0 and 4.0 list additional controls applicable to specific public activities and commercial operators, respectively.

## 2.0 General Controls

### Hours of Operation

Mauna Kea Science Reserve. Public recreational activities within the Mauna Kea Science Reserve will be allowed from one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. During times of heavy ski and snowplay activity, the area may be closed earlier to allow designated personnel to make a sweep of the mountain for stragglers and be able to reach lower altitude by dark.

Because lights from autos interfere with astronomical observations, UH may install a gate or chain across the Mauna Kea Access Road at night to prevent unauthorized after-hours vehicles from reaching the summit area. This barrier will be located in such a way that visitors can safely turn around and return to lower elevations.

Hale Pohaku. Hours for activities at the Visitor Information Station can vary, depending on events scheduled. Both UH and commercial stargazing tours will be permitted. Groups may be permitted to use the Information Station after closing hours, for approved reasons, by obtaining a temporary permit from Mauna Kea Support Services (MKSS). Unauthorized use of the Information Station is prohibited.

### Mauna Kea Science Reserve Access Controls.

Periods of Controlled Access. UH and/or DLNR Enforcement Officers will control access, as required, during periods of heavy usage, transportation of heavy equipment and during certain road maintenance activities. All visitors must comply with their directives.

Unscheduled Closings of the Access Road. UH may close any or all portions of the road between Hale Pohaku and the summit if it is determined that hazardous conditions exist. The road will also be closed when it is being cleared of snow and when it is being otherwise worked on due to snow conditions. UH will keep the public informed of the status of the road through the local media and through a recorded telephone message.

Following unscheduled closings, no private or commercial tour vehicles will be allowed access above the OCIA until two-lane traffic is established and the road is opened by UH Mauna Kea Support Services (MKSS) personnel. During and immediately after snow removal and road maintenance activities, official vehicles (those identified as being associated with UH and the telescopes) shall have priority over private vehicles or those of commercial operators.

Special Controls During Winter Snow Activities. From time-to-time during periods of heavy use of the Science Reserve by skiers and snowplay participants, the DLNR Enforcement Division and/or UH may ask local members of the National Ski Patrol to assist in crowd control and to help ensure public safety. Ski Patrol members--who can be identified by the Gold Cross with the National Ski Patrol name on their clothing--are trained in first aid, mountaineering and search and rescue. All skiers and snowplay participants, including commercial tour operators and their customers must yield to the Ski Patrol and not hinder emergency and/or rescue operations.

**Visitor Vehicles.** Until the entire road is paved, all commercial vehicles and those used in astronomy-related activities must be 4-wheel-drive. Four-wheel drive is also strongly recommended for private vehicles. UH reserves the right to require 4-wheel-drive on all vehicles proceeding to the upper elevations of Mauna Kea when driving conditions are hazardous. Off-road use of vehicles is prohibited (see II.D.1 above). Drivers must handle their vehicles in a safe manner. They must obey all posted signs and any directives given by UH or DLNR personnel. If violations are flagrant, Hawaii County Police may be called in to assist.

**Waiver of Liability.** Visitors will be warned that if they proceed up the mountain it will be at their own risk. UH reserves the right to require a waiver of liability from each driver (commercial and private) before the vehicle is allowed to proceed to the upper elevations.

**Alcoholic Beverages.** No drinking of alcoholic beverages is permitted above Hale Pohaku. Commercial operators must guarantee that their clients will not use alcoholic beverages within the Science Reserve.

**Archaeological Sites Within The UH Management Area.** All activities covered by this Plan shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 6E-11 HRS, which states: *"It shall be unlawful for any person, natural or corporate, to take, appropriate, excavate, injure, destroy or alter any historic property located upon lands owned or controlled by the State...except as permitted by the Department (DLNR)."* If UH personnel observe visitors tampering with the sites, they will, at their discretion, inform them of the law and instruct them to desist. They will log and report all such incidents to the DLNR Historic Preservation and/or Enforcement Division for appropriate action in accordance with Chapter 6E HRS.

**Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve.** Features within the Natural Area Reserve (NAR) will be managed by the Natural Area Reserves Commission and DLNR according to the Management Plan for that area. Information and regulations on the NAR will be available at the Information Station.

**General Controls at Hale Pohaku.** Visitors to the Information Station will be informed of the dangers of fire to the flora and fauna in the Hale Pohaku area by means of signs and published information. No outdoor fires (hibachis, etc.) will be allowed. Visitors will also be cautioned against littering, which may attract predators that could endanger the fauna in the area, and urged to walk only on designated paths so as not to disturb the flora.

### ***3.0 Management and Control of Specific Public Activities***

**Astronomy.** UH and the other astronomy users associated with the Mauna Kea Observatories will manage and control visitor activities involving tours of the telescopes.

**Hiking.** For their safety, all hikers will be encouraged to visit the Information Station prior to proceeding upslope. At that time they will be warned of the hazards of high-altitude hiking and given a copy of the regulations for public use of the Science Reserve.

**Sight-seeing and Snow Activities.** The public will be encouraged to stop at the Information Station to obtain information on precautions which must be taken and rules to be followed when driving upslope. They will be warned that proceeding up the mountain will be at their own risk; drivers may be required to sign a waiver of liability.

**Hunting.** Hunting on Mauna Kea will be allowed only in areas designated for that purpose by DLNR. The activity is allowed pursuant to the applicable regulations of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

### ***4.0 Management and Control of Commercial Activities***

In addition to the controls and rules specified for the general public, the following conditions apply to all commercial operators. It should be noted that all commercial operators who use the Visitor Information Station, the Mauna Kea Access Road and the parking areas, even though the activity they sponsor does not actually take place within the UH Management Area, are subject to these controls.

- \* All commercial operators must obtain a permit from the DLNR Division of Land Management. The permit will require the operator to comply with all relevant restrictions and controls contained in this Management Plan. Land Management will add other conditions (fees, insurance, etc.) as appropriate. Prior to granting a permit, Land Management will ask UH to review and comment on the application and on the proposed conditions
- \* Commercial use will be monitored. In the future it may be necessary to limit the number of commercial operators at the summit at one time and/or limit the total number of permits issued.
- \* All commercial operators are required to:
  - use four-wheel drive vehicles only,
  - be familiar with the general conditions for high-altitude driving,
  - register at the Information Station to inform UH of their presence on the mountain,
  - park in specific parking areas when told to do so,
  - pick up all rubbish generated by the activities and carry it back to their base operations, and
  - ensure that their clients comply with all regulations.
- \* The maximum size commercial vehicle allowed at the Information Station and above will be 14-passenger vans - unless special arrangements for larger vehicles are made with UH on a case-by-case basis.
- \* The number of commercial vehicles allowed at any one time to park at the Information Station or on the adjacent roadways will be set by UH.
- \* During periods of heavy use--usually during weekends when there is snow--the number of commercial vehicles allowed in the Mauna Kea Science Reserve will be limited to a number determined by UH in consultation with DLNR. Initially this number will be 18.
- \* Commercial operators, drivers and guides will be provided with guidelines on mountain driving and emergency procedures when they receive their permits. Operators will be required to warn their clients of the dangers of altitude sickness and the other hazards of traveling to high elevations.
- \* Ski and snowplay operators shall be required to identify suitable staging areas in their permit applications. These areas shall not be located near known archaeological sites.
- \* Ski and snowplay operators may be required to carry reasonable emergency rescue equipment in their vehicles for emergency rescues.
- \* The operator will be responsible for ensuring that his/her clients are clothed appropriately and have adequate liquids and food.
- \* If the commercial activity engaged in above the OCIA requires toilet facilities, the commercial operator must provide, operate, and maintain pre-positioned portable toilets for the clients' use.
- \* Except in the case of emergency, access to the OCIA buildings shall be limited to the designated public areas.
- \* Radio transmitters, including cellular telephones, will be restricted to emergency use only within the Science Reserve.

## **D. ENFORCEMENT**

### ***1.0 All Visitors***

Responsibility for enforcement of this Management Plan resides with DLNR except in those areas specifically assigned to UH. In addition to its specifically assigned responsibilities, UH will also assist DLNR personnel by reporting other infractions.

### ***2.0 Commercial Operators***

DLNR Land Management has the administrative responsibility for issuing permits, setting and collecting fees and enforcement. UH will review and comment on permit applications and conditions, and assist in monitoring the activities of commercial operators. Enforcement and monitoring of permit conditions will be conducted by DLNR as required. A fee may be assessed to the permittee to cover costs incurred by the State. Noncompliance with permit conditions may result in revocation of permit and/or fine. Damage to historic sites will result in suspension of the permit.

## **E. MONITORING**

Currently, UH is counting traffic to and from the upper elevations of the mountain. This will continue. Additional monitoring could be accomplished in the following manner:

- \* By means of a "voluntary" registration book located in the Information Station.
- \* By monthly reports from the "guide/rangers", DLNR, and/or MKSS. Frequent reports will allow problem areas to be identified early and solutions found before damage is done. This will be critical in determining whether or not to restrict commercial usage.
- \* By placing suggestion boxes both inside and outside of the Information Station and reviewing visitors' suggestions and complaints.

## **F. AMENDMENTS**

The Management Plan has been designed to allow for flexible enforcement of access and control of uses. If evaluation of the results of periodic monitoring indicate that other regulations are necessary to protect the resources at the summit or optimize its use, these will be considered by DLNR and UH. They will request the cooperation of the County of Hawaii, recreational users and commercial operators in assisting them update the plan and enforce its provisions.

## **G. SUMMARY**

DLNR has the authority to determine permitted public and commercial uses of the UH Management Areas. This authority is subject to the terms of the lease between UH and DLNR which provides that public hunting and recreational activities may occur during daylight hours and that activities that may be inimical to the scientific purpose of the Science Reserve shall not be

allowed. Responsibility for enforcement of this Management Plan resides with DLNR, except in those areas specifically assigned to UH. DLNR Land Management has the administrative responsibility for issuing commercial permits, setting and collecting fees and enforcement of permit conditions. UH would review and comment on permit applications and conditions, and assist in monitoring the activities of commercial operators.

The following rights and responsibilities within the UH Management Areas are reserved to UH:

**Mauna Kea Science Reserve Access.** Control and maintenance of the Mauna Kea Observatories Access Road from Hale Pohaku to the summit and associated public parking areas as follows:

- \* The right to limit access to 4-wheel-drive vehicles only and/or require chains when driving conditions are hazardous.
- \* The right to restrict public access to daylight hours only by installing a gate or chain across the Mauna Kea Access Road at night to prevent unauthorized after-hours vehicles from reaching the summit area.
- \* The authority to close any or all portions of the road between Hale Pohaku and the summit for general maintenance, hazardous driving conditions, snow removal, and road repairs due to snow conditions.
- \* The authority to restrict access above the OCIA, following unscheduled closings, until two-lane traffic is established and the road is opened by UH Mauna Kea Observatories Support Services (MKSS) personnel and to give priority access to official vehicles (those identified as being associated with UH and the telescopes) during and immediately after these closings.
- \* The right to ask others, such as the National Ski Patrol, to assist in crowd control when DLNR enforcement officers are not available.
- \* The right to require a waiver of liability from each driver (commercial and private) before the vehicle is allowed to proceed to the upper elevations.
- \* The right to review and comment on all commercial permit applications and the associated proposed conditions.
- \* The right of UH and the other astronomy users associated with the Mauna Kea Observatories to manage and control all visitor activities involving tours of the telescopes, except that commercial operators would have to get the necessary permit from DLNR.
- \* The right to limit the number of commercial vehicles allowed in the Mauna Kea Science Reserve to a number determined by UH in consultation with DLNR. Initially this number will be 18.

**Activities at the Hale Pohaku Visitor Information Station.**

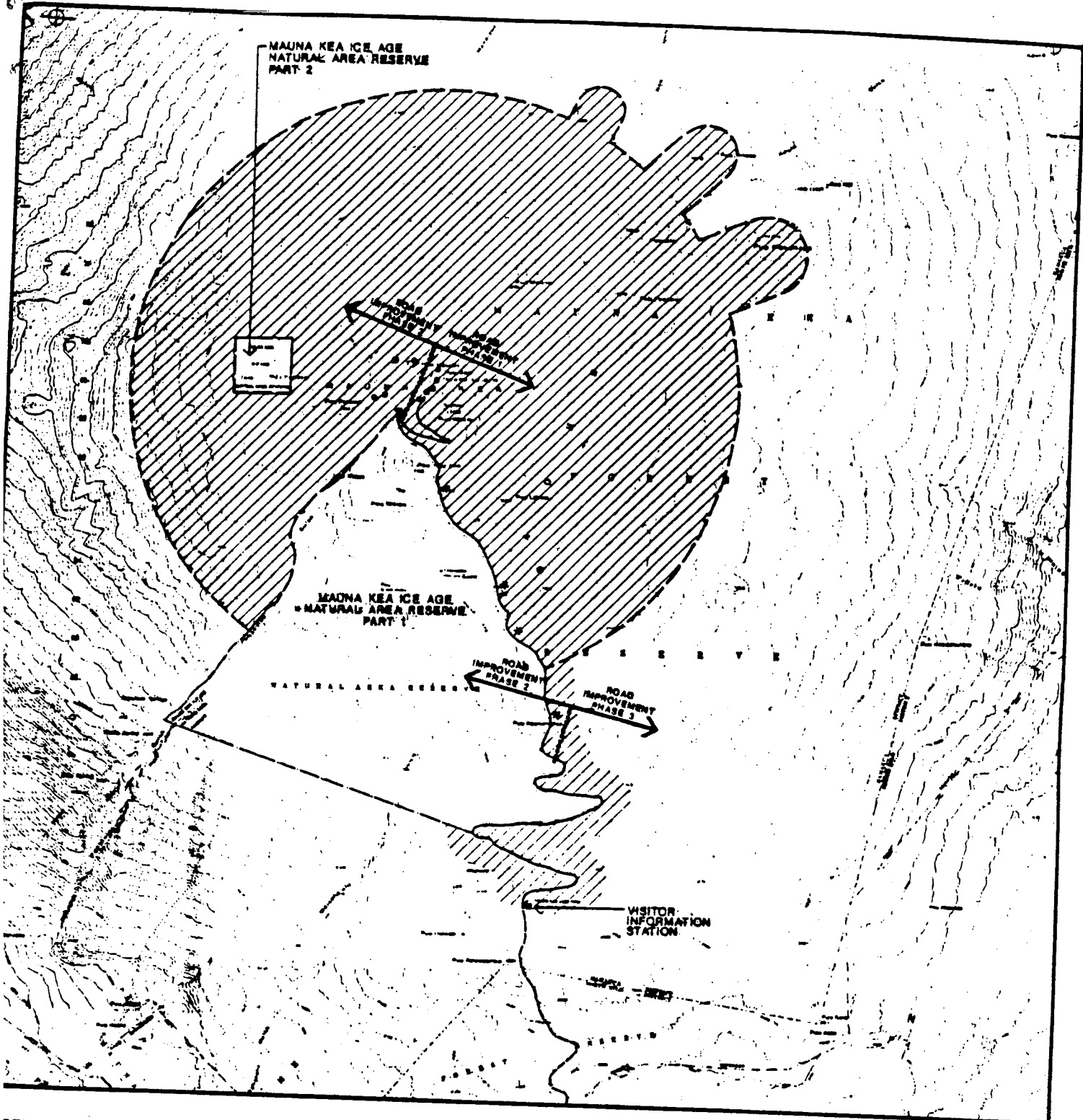
- \* The authority to limit the number of 14-passenger commercial vehicles allowed to park at the Information Station or on the adjacent roadways at any one time.
- \* The authority to enforce rules and control crowds at the Visitor Information Station.

- \* The authority to set the hours of operation at the Visitor Information Center.
- \* The right to permit groups to use the Information Station after closing hours, for approved reasons, by obtaining a temporary permit from Mauna Kea Observatories Support Services (MKSS).

**Commercial Activities at UH Facilities.**

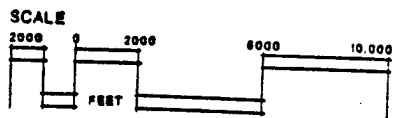
- \* The right for UH to operate concessions and sell astronomy-related items at the Visitor Information Station and other UH facilities within the Management Area covered by this plan.
- \* The right for UH to contract for a shuttle service to take visitors to the summit for various activities and events.





**LEGEND**

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  | MAUNA KEA ACCESS ROAD - UH                         |  | LIMIT OF MAUNA KEA SCIENCE RESERVE         |
|  | MAUNA KEA ACCESS ROAD - COUNTY                     |  | UH MANAGEMENT AREA                         |
|  | PUBLIC PARKING AREA                                |  | ONIZUKA CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY |
|  | EXISTING TELESCOPE FACILITY                        |  |  |
|  | TELESCOPE FACILITY - PLANNED OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION |  |  |



MANAGEMENT AREAS AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS  
**MAUNA KEA SCIENCE RESERVE**  
**COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT PLAN**



# University of Hawaii at Manoa

Institute for Astronomy  
2680 Woodlawn Drive • Honolulu, Hawaii 96822  
Telex: 723-8459 • UHAST HR

Office of the Director

April 27, 1995

Mr. Michael D. Wilson, Chairman  
Board of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Subject: Revised Management Plan for UH Management Areas on Mauna Kea  
to Include a Commercial Activities Element, CDUP HA-1573A

Dear Mr. Wilson: *Mike*

I am returning herewith, as requested, the original of your letter of April 25, which I have signed to certify the University of Hawaii's acceptance of conditions 1 through 16 as imposed by the Board. We will proceed to amend the plan as originally submitted to comply with conditions 5, 7 and 10 and expect to submit the revised document for staff concurrence early in May; I understand that no further Board action is required. The University of Hawaii also accepts responsibility for the obligations specified under conditions 6 and 15 and undertakes to work with staff on the joint obligations identified in conditions 13, 14 and 16.

I appreciate the effort staff has put into finally bringing this plan to fruition. We look forward to working with DLNR on sensitive and responsible management of the unique resource that Mauna Kea represents.

Sincerely,

Donald N. B. Hall  
Director

DNBH:nll  
enclosures  
File: MK Management Plan



APR 26 1995

Chairperson  
MICHAEL D. WILSON  
Board of Land and Natural Resources

REF:OCEA:SL

INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY

Deputy Director  
GILBERT COLOMA-AGARAN

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

P. O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

File No.: HA-1573A

Aquaculture Development  
Aquatic Resources  
Boating and Ocean Recreation  
Bureau of Conveyances  
Conservation and Environmental Affairs  
Conservation and Resources Enforcement  
Forestry and Wildlife  
Historic Preservation  
Land Management  
State Parks  
Water and Land Development

Dr. Donald Hall, Director  
University of Hawaii  
Institute for Astronomy  
2680 Woodlawn Drive  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

APR 25 1995

Dear Dr. Hall:

Subject: Revised Management Plan for UH Management Areas on  
Mauna Kea to Include a Commercial Activities Element

This is to inform you that on March 10, 1995 the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved the Revised Management Plan for UH Management Areas on Mauna Kea, subject to the following conditions:

1. That until the Historic Preservation Plan is completed and implemented by UHIFA, permits for commercial use shall undergo case-by-case review by the Historic Preservation Division in consultation with the Division of Land Management, Department of Land and Natural Resources;
2. That the Revised Management Plan replace the Management Plan approved by the BLNR on February 22, 1985 in Cдуа HA-1573;
3. That commercial permits shall be for a set term and subject to renewal;
4. That commercial permits shall have a consistent fee basis;
5. The plan shall include cultural uses that do not involve physical impacts;
6. Mauna Kea Support Services shall be instructed as to what are the prohibitions on the mountain and they shall be responsible for reporting violations of the Maunakea Plan to the appropriate enforcement agencies;
7. The plan shall be amended to prohibit tampering with all historic, archaeological and cultural sites. The only exception would be in the case where the development of a site is proposed, and in the course of the permit for that development, alteration of the site would be prohibited;

8. Permits for skiing or snowplay shall include staging areas to be identified and not be permitted in the areas of known archaeological sites;
9. The Division of Land Management shall check compliance with the PUC as part of the granting of permits;
10. The plan reference to 12 passenger vehicles is amended to 14 passenger vehicles;
11. Present permits shall remain in effect until the Division of Land Management permit is issued;
12. When the Biological and Archaeological reports are completed, staff shall report back to the Board as to whether any modifications to the plan are warranted by things learned in the biological and archaeological surveys;
13. There shall be signs about the protection of historic sites as well as discouraging people from making ahu's, subject to funding;
14. There shall be signs prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages, subject to funding;
15. The Visitor Center shall be manned 7 days a week, subject to funding;
16. The University of Hawaii and the DLNR shall meet to see whether there is a way that UH can contribute toward the funding of a DOCARE position intended for Mauna Kea, but not necessarily exclusive to Mauna Kea.

Please acknowledge receipt of this permit, with the above noted conditions, in the space provided below. Please sign two copies. Retain one and return the other within thirty (30) days.

Should you have any questions on any of these conditions, please contact Sam Lemmo of our Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs staff at 587-0377.

Aloha,

*Gilbert S. Colma-Laganan*  
MICHAEL D. WILSON

Receipt acknowledged

*Ronald W. Hall*

Applicant's Signature

Date

27 April 1999

- xc: Hawaii Board Member
- Hawaii Planning Dept.
- Christopher Langan
- Richard Tillson
- Pat Wright
- Hyatt Regency Waikoloa
- Nicholas L. Terstenjak
- Hawaii Resorts Transportation
- Mark Collins
- Hugh Montgomery
- Lester J. Ichado
- Cheryl Takeishi
- Diane Quitiquit
- Keola Childs
- Nelson Ho