removal of the observatories could have a substantial and adverse effect on landfill capacity.

Other Resources. Air emissions during removal of the observatories would be unlikely to exceed the SAAQS or the NAAQS and should result in a moderate, but not significant, impact on air quality. The incremental impact associated with removal of the Outrigger Telescopes Project would be a small contributor to the cumulative impact on air quality. Careful attention to appropriate dust control measures by the demolition contractors would preclude fugitive dust from significantly impacting local air quality or other resources.

Geology would not be impacted but slope stability could be adversely impacted, particularly in those areas where retaining walls and other slope stabilization measures had to be installed during construction of the observatories. The removal of these structures from observatory sites would have to be carefully planned and implemented to prevent destabilization of slopes and eliminate potential for impacting existing Wēkiu bug habitat, for example at JB-5 and Outrigger Telescope 3. The incremental impact associated with removal of the Outrigger Telescopes Project would be a small contributor to the overall cumulative impact on geology and slope stability.

Hazardous waste management associated with removal of the observatories should not result in adverse environmental impact, given attention to use of proper waste containers and effective housekeeping practices by the removal contractors. Minimization of hazardous material storage and use at each work site, combined with adequate contractor spill control and response planning, should help ensure that no impacts would arise from these activities.

The currently designated land use for the Astronomy Precinct would no longer be necessary and could be revised accordingly. Existing uses of the mountain such as cultural practices, recreation, and tourism would be substantially and adversely impacted during observatory removal. Heavy truck activity, noise, and the need to establish exclusionary zones around demolition sites for safety purposes would contribute to these impacts. Over the long-term, tourism may experience a large decline with cessation of astronomy as an attraction. Utilities and services in the summit area could also be adversely impacted with removal of the observatories. Electric service to the summit would no longer be needed and would probably be decommissioned or removed. The substation at Hale Pōhaku would no longer be needed and could also be removed. The communication lines to the summit might be retained for use in emergencies.

For these environmental resources, the incremental impact associated with removal of the Outrigger Telescopes Project would be a negligible to small contributor to the overall cumulative impacts.

4.2.16 Cumulative Impacts Conclusions

From a cumulative perspective, the impact of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future activities on cultural and biological resources is substantial, adverse, and significant. The corresponding impact on socioeconomics is substantial and positive. In general, the Outrigger Telescopes Project would add a small incremental impact. Overall, past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.