

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY¹

Mauna Kea is probably one of the most significant cultural and astronomical sites in the world. For the Hawaiian people Mauna Kea is their cultural connection or *piko* (umbilical cord) to Papa and Wākea, it is the beginning and the end. For the astronomical community Mauna Kea is the scientific umbilical cord to the mysteries of the universe. It is the goal of this Comprehensive Management Plan for the University of Hawai'i Management Areas (CMP) that these two cultures co-exist in such a way that is mutually respectful and yet honors the unique cultural and natural resources of Mauna Kea. The Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) has likewise shared the belief that "these diverse interests can be accommodated," recognizing that Mauna Kea's summit area is unique and one of the most special places on earth. In Native Hawaiian culture, Mauna Kea is a focal point of spiritual and cultural significance, a home of deities, a place of spiritual connection with one's ancestors, history, and the heavens. To astronomers worldwide, Mauna Kea is exceptional in its quality for astronomical observation. Mauna Kea, more than any other place, presents the stewards of the land with an inexorable duty to conserve, protect, and preserve this unique and most special resource.

While many people in the community believed that science and cultural can co-exist they also shared a similar concern that the general community, including the astronomical community, did not really understand or appreciate how significant Mauna Kea was to the Hawaiian people. This lack of cultural sensitivity engendered anger, hurt, and distrust towards the University of Hawai'i for not being a good steward of Mauna Kea. Cultural understanding and information to appreciate Mauna Kea from a cultural perspective will assist in avoiding miscommunications or unintentional disrespect.

Thus, the CMP starts with the premise that if a person is culturally oriented about how valuable and vulnerable the cultural and natural resources are on Mauna Kea, they will become better stewards of Mauna Kea. The CMP begins with a "Cultural Anchor" prepared by The Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation to set the cultural framework of Mauna Kea. Chapter 1 provides a more in depth cultural orientation in the traditional and contemporary cultural significance of Mauna Kea.

Besides the cultural orientation, this CMP is distinguishable from previous management plans and the 2000 Master Plan as it aggressively and extensively engaged the community throughout the development of the CMP. It was very clear from the initial meeting in Hilo that the development of the CMP needed to be initiated from the Big Island community. We needed to first listen in a thoughtful and respectful manner. Chapter 4 is dedicated to describing the extensive community outreach process we engaged in to first ask permission, listen, and then develop a plan that was respectful of what we heard.

Based upon the previous management plans, The 2000 Master Plan, Auditor's reports, and years of contentious litigation, the University, and specifically the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM), determined that a CMP was needed for the Mauna Kea Science Reserve, the lands on Mauna Kea under lease from the BLNR to the University of Hawai'i.² The CMP is intended to provide a guide for managing existing and future activities and uses, and to ensure ongoing protection of Mauna Kea's cultural and natural resources, many of which are unique. The CMP has been prepared based upon the most current and available information.

In preparing the CMP, the CMP team utilizes adaptive management strategies to protect Mauna Kea's unique cultural and natural resources. The adaptive strategy suggests that as more information becomes

¹ The Executive Summary is described from the perspective of the consultant team that assisted in the preparation of the CMP.

² Hereinafter in the CMP the leased lands shall be referred to as the "UH Management Areas." See Section 3.1.1 for a description of the UH Management Areas.