

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cultural Advisory Council for the Office of Maunakea Management instructs UH to halt construction

Hilo, Hawaii – Friday, April 10, 2015- Cultural advisors on the Kahu Kū Mauna Council strongly advises UH to halt construction and advocate for an extended moratorium.

In the past, the Hawaii State Legislature expressed concerns about the State's management of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve. Individuals as well as community and Hawaiian organizations have also voiced concerns, alleging a lack of transparency, accountability, and equity regarding the management of Mauna Kea and the science reserve by the University of Hawai'i and the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The 1998 Audit of the Management of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve states that the "Management of Mauna Kea Fails to Adequately Ensure Protection of our Natural Resources," which include cultural preservation.

The 2014 Follow-Up Audit of the Management of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve state that "The UH has responsibility for managing its leased Mauna Kea lands. The UH Board of Regents has rulemaking and final approval authority over major projects and its acceptance of the 2000 Master Plan prompted creation of the Office of Mauna Kea Management, the Mauna Kea Management Board, and Kahu Kū Mauna, a volunteer advisory council. The office is responsible for managing Mauna Kea lands leased by or under an easement to the university. The Mauna Kea board advises the UH–Hilo chancellor and office on managing the science reserve and serves as the main community voice for activities and development planned for the science reserve. **Kahu Kū Mauna provides advice and direction on Native Hawaiian cultural matters** and comprises individuals from the Native Hawaiian community.

As cultural advisors to the Office of Maunakea Management, it's Board and UH Hilo Chancellor, Kahu Kū Mauna is strongly advising all parties mentioned, including President David Lassner and the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents to do everything in their power to engage in Aloha Kekahi I Kekahi, aloha and sincere care for one another and halt construction at this time. We understand that the University of Hawai'i is not planning to access Maunakea on Monday 4/13/15 as other agencies and organizations may. However, UH is the responsible entity of the overall project and great kuleana comes with that assignment. As stewards of this wahi (place) the University of Hawaii is responsible for what will happen on Maunakea on any given day. There are great concerns to be addressed that will significantly adversely impact the sacred landscape of our mauna and safety of people, including children. A Nation is standing up for their rights as practitioners of aloha 'aina and are demanding fair process. This cannot be ignored. There is an excessive number of community members from this island, archipelago, nation and beyond in opposition of this project. There are people that are on the mauna and will not leave until this is resolved. Although the current 7day moratorium mandated by Governor Ige, is in place there are a number of issues that are in dire need of mitigation with all stakeholders. The complexity of this project requires more dialogue that the University of Hawaii can foster to include a balanced discussion that has yet to take place. Responsible stewardship means pono (just) action for all. As stated in the Executive Summary of the Maunakea Comprehensive Management Plan "Maunakea, 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." Please be accountable to responsible stewardship, this is wao Akua (region of the gods), sacred land. Do what is in the best interest of the mauna and the people.

Again, as cultural advisors to the Office of Maunakea Management, it's Board and UH Hilo Chancellor, Kahu Kū Mauna is strongly advising all parties mentioned, including President David Lassner and the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents to do everything in their power to engage in Aloha Kekahi I Kekahi and halt construction at this time.

Please note that this is the second attempt on advising UH to halt construction. The first was in an email to Director, Stephanie Nagata, Chancellor Straney and President Lassner on April 2, 2015.

Kahu Kū Mauna Council provides advice and direction to the Office of Maunakea Management Director, its Board and the Chancellor of UH Hilo on Native Hawaiian cultural matters and comprises individuals from the Native Hawaiian community.

Shane Nelson, Chair
Tiffnie Kakalia, Vice Chair
Toni Mallow
Celeste Ha'o
Dale Fergestrom
Tom Chun
Keahi Trajon