



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Hawaii State Aha Moku Testimony
To the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Land Board)

April 13, 2023
Honolulu, Hawaii

Agenda Item K: Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) HA-3906 Regarding the Hoku Ke'a Observatory Decommissioning Project by the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and the Center for Mauna Kea Stewardship located at the Mauna Kea Science Reserve, Ka'ohe, Hamakua Hawaii Tax Map Keys: (3) 4-4-015:009 (por).

Aloha Chairperson Chang and Honorable Members of the Land Board,

We speak on behalf of the Aha Moku participants and members of Native Hawaiian generational families connected to Mauna Kea on Moku O Keawe. The Moku of Hamakua, Kohala, Kona, Ka'u, Puna and Hilo all connect to Mauna Kea. We share our comments on this CDUA application and offer our recommendations as we believe it is proper to defer all decisions for the welfare of Mauna Kea to the recently formed Mauna Kea Stewardship Oversight Authority (MKSOA). We believe all decisions of the University of Hawaii-Manoa pertaining to Mauna Kea should go through the MKSOA prior to Land Board final decisions.

We have no objection to the decommissioning of Hoku Ke'a but ask that it be deferred because the MKSOA will not receive its authority until July 1, 2023. As such, we question the timing of this removal. While all the Moku O Keawe people who were involved in the protest TMT want all the observatories decommissioned, we believe that due to an oral prior approval of past Chair Suzanne Case and the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL), one of the scheduled decommissioned observatories be given to MKSOA.

As we are mandated to advise the Chairperson of BLNR and the Land Board members, we are also mandated to bring the voices of the kanaka maoli forward. These voices are echoed in the attachments which reflect the will of the people of Moku O Keawe, and of the entire Pae'Aina of Hawaii Nei.

Kapa'akai O Ka Aina¹ Analysis

The Kapa'akai Analysis may be used in determining whether traditional and customary practices would be impacted by the activities of the University of Hawaii, present and in the future.

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law of the Kapa'akai Case

- Identification and scope of "valued cultural, historical, or natural resources" in petition or impacted area, including the extent to which traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights are exercised in the petition area;

¹ Ka Pa'akai O Ka'Aina v. Land Use Commission, State of Hawai'i, 2000, Supreme Court of Hawai'i

- The extent to which those resources, including traditional and customary native Hawaiian rights, will be affected or impaired by the proposed actions;
- The feasible action, if any, to be taken to reasonably protect native Hawaiian rights if they are found to exist.

The petition area in this case is Mauna Kea.

Aha Moku Recommendations to the Land Board

1. Defer all activities on Mauna Kea, including the decommission of Hale Ke’a Observatory by UH-Manoa and UH-Hilo until July 2023 when the authority of the MKSOA begins;
2. That the OCCL begin the necessary collaboration with MKSOA via a *Huaka’i* (journey) to the Mauna Kea Summit to view the remaining observatories so a decision of which observatory be restored by the UH-Manoa would be appropriate to be given as a gift to the MKSOA.
 - a. This observatory must have appropriate and adequate infrastructure that would support cultural and educational activities by the MKSOA; appropriate space and shelter for Kupuna and others to observe and participate in their traditional practices; and an available meeting place.

These recommendations come from a background of broken promises and heartbreak. However, there rises out of this a new promise of hope and renewal. We ask that the Land Board absorb the attachments to this testimony so full understanding of our recommendation can be recognized.

Respectfully and humbly yours,

Charles Young, Po’o Moku O Keawe
 Aha Moku Advisory Committee
 Hawaii State Aha Moku
 808-987-9052
Youngc042@hawaii.r.com

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Aha Moku Lehua
 Phone: 808-382-6043
 Email: kahalelehua@outlook.com

Rocky Kaluhiwa, Aha Moku Advisory Committee, Chair
 Phone: 808-286-7955
 Email: rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com

Leimana DaMate, Luna Alaka’i/Executive Director
 Hawaii State Aha Moku
 Phone: 808-640-1214
 Email: Leimana.k.damate@hawaii.gov

Attachments:

- May 2, 2019, Kupuna Kuka Mana’o, Hilo
- May 2, 2019, Kupuna contact information
- July 17, 2019, Letter from Aha Moku to Governor Ige re Mauna Kea
- July 18, 2019, Email from Leimana DaMate to Clare Connors re Aha Moku letter to Governor Ige

Mauna Kea – Notes

May 2, 2019

Notes compiled from Kupuna mana’o regarding Mauna Kea at a kuka on May 2, 2019 in Hilo.

Notes in black taken by Leimana; **Notes in brown are from Piilani off of the large tablet. These include the messages put on post-it notes from kupuna.**

- The Mauna can be shared. Our ancestors used astrology to get to Hawaii
- Those in charge of Mauna Kea have been reckless in the dismissal of people of this place
- How can we bridge the anger and hurt of the Hawaiian people with the necessary managers of the mauna?
- The high peaks are very spiritual and sacred
- Mauna Kea is not just a temple, it takes care of my spirit
- Clean up the opala (rubbish)
- Make the place safe – physically and spiritually
- We need good management on Mauna Kea
- There is no communication by agencies
- The homeless are coming here from outside of Hawaii
- All islands have their own beauty, yet we are fenced off from our places by fences and gates
- UH is not pono!
- **Learn the song “Alu Like”! It teaches you how to work together, to listen.**
- **Our culture has changed, and now we must “know our culture” by University standards! Aole!**
- Nobody listened to their spiritual sides. This caused land destruction!
- We need to kuka! We need to find a way to fix this!
- There is contamination now on Mauna Kea.
- Be respectful – go to the Po’o who are responsible for their people.
- There is always a solution – communication and action.
- Communication is critical.
- Trust in God always – and love one another!
- **Have aloha for each other. Right now, all are guarded.**
- **Pule- all must pule for peace. Pule to God and he will open the way to peace**
- **Aloha kekahi I kekahi (We must be one in love)**
- **We all must repent for what all of us have done to the Mauna**
- **Dreams and prophecies are very important to our kupuna**
- **Why are Hawaiians placed in areas that are contaminated?**
- **We have no place to go – this is our home.**
- **Our children remain home.**

- We must malama our resources – water, land, light, health
- Land destruction of resources happen from those who have money
- We must all change from “then” to “now”

- UH promised to allow Hawaiians in (astrology) with no tuition. They have broken every promise!
- Mauna Kea is sacred and holy! The contamination are the observatories and how they were built
- (Note: Aunty Nohea has asked for a copy of the TMT EIS)
- Make Mauna Kea safe for communities
- Will there be public access?
- Good management is needed for the Mauna
- We must work together – all agencies involved with the people
- We need a spiritual ‘olelo
- Science is spiritual!
- UH must do its research and due diligence about the people
- Educate! This is very important.
- Not all people can afford school – we must talk to the people
- Be transparent
- Educate others on mokupuni, moku, ahupuaa, aina, mauna, piko, kai
- Not everyone gets the newspapers or have technology
- Listen to the people!
- Balance is Lokahi! Everyone needs balance!
- Share your plans! People can provide valuable input
- Look at the needs of the people. How will people learn about Ka’u to Mauna Kea? (Through community events, displays, artifacts, schools)
- Communication! Seek out ‘ohana before development.
- Ho’oponopono – to achieve Ho’oponopono you must first:
 - Clean up the opala left by now vacant observatories
 - Bridge: Healing must be done by the county, state and federal agencies
 - Future: Save our aina, make opportunities for our children who are away
 - TMT should downsize
 - Observatory people make their money, then leave
- Our people need to grieve - for the land they will forever lose, and for all the pilikia the UH has caused
 - Each Po’o must go to their people and let them go onto Mauna Kea before construction starts to grieve
- We can achieve peace if we trust in God!

Hawaii State Aha Moku

Mauna Kea – Notes

May 2, 2019

Notes compiled from Kupuna mana'o regarding Mauna Kea at a kuka on May 2, 2019 in Hilo with Suzanne Case, DLNR Director, Clare Connors, AG

Notes in black taken by Leimana DaMate; **Notes in brown are from Piilani Kaawaloa from the large tablet. These include the messages put on post-it notes from kupuna.**

- **Each Po'o must go to their people and let them go onto Mauna Kea before construction starts to grieve**
- **We can achieve peace if we trust in God!**

May 2, 2019

Kupuna Kuka

Panaewa Community Center

100 Ohuohu St.

Hilo, HI 96720

Last Name	First Name	Address	City	St	Zip	Contact	Email	Ahupuaa	Moku
Chung	Lucille	PO Box 6040	Hilo	HI	96720	938-3688	lchung1940@yahoo.com	Laupahoehoe	Hamakua
Crutcher	Nohea	PO Box 928	Pahoa	HI	96778	756-6947	lucrutcher@hotmail.com		Puna
Kamoku	Mary Jane	127 Ohuohu St.	Hilo	HI	96720	937-8133	mjlnk@yahoo.com	Panaewa	Hilo
Kuluwaimaka	Elizabeth	PO Box 6808	Ocean View	HI	96737	339-0289	konawaileo@yahoo.com	Kahuku	Ka'u
Pe'a	Jan	15 Pohai St.	Hilo	HI	96720	319-8100			Hilo
Vierra	Darlyne	PO Box 22	Naalehu	HI	96772	640-8740	dvierra22@gmail.com	Kawala	Ka'u

Kupuna Kuka

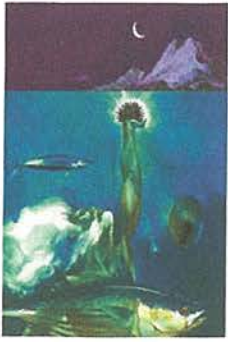
Sign In Sheet

Panaewa Community Center, 100 Uhuuhu St., Hilo, HI 96720

PLEASE PRINT

May 2, 2019 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Name	Address	Phone	Email	Ahupua'a/Moku
LUCILLE V. CHUNG	P.O. Box 6040 Hilo 96720	(808) 938-3688	lchung1940@yahoo.com	(HAMAKUA) LUAHONOES
Neohaa Crutcher	PO Box 928 Pahoa, HI 96778	808 756-6947	lucrutcher@hotmail.com	Puna
Mary Jane Hamaker	127 Ohuohu St Hilo HI 96720	808 969-8133	mjlnk@yahoo.com	Panaewa
Elizabeth Kuluwaimaka	P.O. Box 6808 OCEAN VIEW HI 96737	808 339-0289	konawaileo@yahoo.com	KA'U - KAHUKU AHUPUA'A
Darlynne Vierra	Box 22 Malahua HI 96720	640- 8740		Kau Kawala
Jan Pe'a,	15 Pohai St. 96720	319-8100		Hilo



**Aha Moku Advisory Committee
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**



July 17, 2019

Governor David Y. Ige
Executive Chambers
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Governor Ige,

On behalf of Moku O Keawe, Island of Hawai'i, we greet you and humbly ask that you reflect on the concerns and perspectives of our participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku process as it pertains to Mauna Kea and the TMT construction. As you are aware, the Aha Moku was created by the Legislature, first in 2007 via Act 212, SLH 2007, then again in 2012 via Act 288, SLH 2012. Its mandate was to advise the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Legislature on issues relating to natural and cultural resources.

In the State of Hawai'i, there are forty-six (46) Moku - larger land districts with 606 ahupuaa encompassed within these large districts. On Moku O Keawe, there are six (6) Moku – Kohala, Hāmākua, Hilo, Puna, Ka'ū and Kona. Encompassed within these six Moku are 197 ahupua'a, and all are connected culturally and spiritually to Mauna Kea. As you are aware, Mauna Kea is a critically important *wahi pana*, a profoundly sacred and religious site for Native Hawaiians of Moku O Keawe. As such, the TMT issue is of great concern.

We are grateful to Suzanne Case, Chairperson of the DLNR, and to Clare Connors, the Attorney General, for their time and attention to the kūpuna and the Hawaiian communities as they sought to find peaceful ways to address the grief and pain of the indigenous Native Hawaiians who have, for decades, witnessed the desecration of their most sacred place. There has always been opposition from Hawaiians to any kind of building on Mauna Kea. However, throughout the years, we have also seen the benefits of western science and understand the need for exploring space, galaxies and stars.

Chair Case and Attorney General Connors have a clear understanding of the perspectives of the Hawaiians who generationally come from the 197 ahupua'a and have traditional connections to Mauna Kea. They met with kūpuna of Moku O Keawe on two occasions in May 2019 in the hopes of gaining better insight into the *'ike* and *'uhane*, knowledge and soul, of the people who for generations are connected to Mauna Kea in every way. What was gleaned from the life experiences and *mana 'o*, or thoughts of these respected elders, were the priorities of the people as they pertain to Mauna Kea and the TMT construction:

- Communication is critical;
- The cultural protocol of Mauna Kea must be identified as practiced and acknowledged by the people of Moku O Keawe (Hawai'i Island);
- The "cultural landscape" of Mauna Kea that was there prior to ranching and observatories needs to be restored so that others can truly understand why the mountain is so important to the Hawaiian people.

Governor David Y. Ige

July 16, 2019

Page 2

There were many other suggestions made by kūpuna that they believed would help ease the current tensions that are now taking place. But there were two that were emphasized:

- 1) **Provide an opportunity, before construction takes place, where all Hawaiians and communities can express their grief and mourn the loss of a site that will forever be gone.** (There is understanding that once the Hawai'i Supreme Court made its decision to allow the TMT Observatory to be built, a law is now in place that mandates this. Aha Moku participants respect and honor the laws of our State.)
- 2) **Hawaiians need to have their own place on Mauna Kea.** They need a place where kūpuna can be comfortable; where Hawaiian methods of astronomy can be taught as traditionally practiced by *kilo kilo hoku*, Hawaiian astronomers and celestial navigators. This includes the identification of practices on the mountain that are done according to the winter and summer solstices as used by Native Hawaiians. The hope is that Hawaiian science can be openly studied and shared with western scientists, including TMT. It is hoped that a decommissioned observatory that still has its structure can be repurposed for the needs of Hawaiians who wish to learn and teach *kilo hoku*, Hawaiian astronomy.

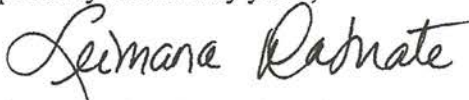
It is with great disappointment that we did not receive any status report or follow-up from our meetings to show that these suggestions were taken seriously prior to construction. But with disappointment, there is also hope. We truly hope for peace, and believe it is possible if all can work together, and Hawaiians can be taken seriously. We believe that if given the chance, we can communicate effectively with the University of Hawaii and with the Office of Mauna Kea Management.

The Aha Moku process, a natural and cultural resource process that focuses on sustainability was restored from the 9th century through translation of ancient Native Hawaiian chants and *mo'olelo*, history handed down from generation to generation. Our mandate is to "bring the voices of the people forward" to government. This process has been proven to work – IF communication is truly done.

We began well with Chair Case and Attorney General Connors. Although the need for dialogue is always present, the need for positive action is now. We do not want to see anguish turn to violence. We do not want to see things escalate. If that happens, we all lose.

We believe in peace, communication, dialogue and keeping our word. We honor those who do the same. We ask that you respond to this letter. We believe that with Ke Akua, all things are possible!

Respectfully and humbly yours,



Leimana DaMate, Executive Director
Hawai'i State Aha Moku

cc: Suzanne Case, Department of Land and Natural Resources
Clare Connors, Attorney General
David Lassner, University of Hawai'i
Gregory Chun, Office of Mauna Kea Management
Mayor Harry Kim, County of Hawai'i

DaMate, Leimana K

From: DaMate, Leimana K
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 9:43 AM
To: Connors, Clare E
Cc: Suzanne Case - DLNR (Suzanne.Case@hawaii.gov); Levins, Sara D
Subject: Aha Moku Letter to Governor Ige
Attachments: Ltr_Gov Ige_Re Mauna Kea_071719.PDF

Aloha Clare,

Attached please find the Aha Moku letter to Governor Ige that was hand-delivered today. This letter pertains to the Mauna Kea/TMT issue that is happening now. Our hopes are that the Governor will get a better feeling for what the majority of the people who are part of the Aha Moku process on Hawaii Island are feeling and what they are recommending.

There will be a second letter from Piilani Kaawaloa, Board member of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC), and the Po'o of the Moku O Keawe (Island of Hawaii) Aha Moku. This letter will detail concerns that came from subsequent meetings Piilani held after the two meetings that you and Suzanne attended. I decided to separate the two letters because none of us attended the meetings Piilani held.

Please feel free to contact me at any time, and thank you so much for all of your compassion and mana'o.

Leimana

*Leimana DaMate
Hawaii State Aha Moku
DLNR, Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl St., Ste. 130
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: 808-640-1214 (cell)
808-640-1214 (direct)
Email: Leimana.K.DaMate@hawaii.gov*