



MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 11, 2023

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

PRESENT, Zoom: Chairperson John Komeiji; First Vice-Chair Noe Noe Wong-Wilson; Second Vice-Chair Rich Matsuda; Ben Kudo; Laura Kaakua; Doug Adams; Paul Horner; Pomai Bertelmann; Kamana Beamer; Bonnie Irwin;

EXCUSED Members: Kalehua Krug; Lanakila Mangauil;

MKSOA SUPPORT: Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole, Deputy Attorney General (DAG); Pua'ena Ahn (MKSOA Executive Assistant);

GUESTS: Greg Chun, Executive Director (UHH CMS);

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:03. 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson and Member Kaakua offered opening remarks on the purpose of the MKSOA and the reasons for the work that is being done and its importance.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

In Person: None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2023 MEETING AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

MOTION: Motion by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda to approve meeting minutes from December 14, 2023, Second by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

MOTION: Motion by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda to approve meeting minutes from Special Meetings on December 29, 2023, January 2, 2024 and January 5, 2024. Second by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson.

ACTION: The motion was approved.

IV. CHAIR REPORT

Chair Komeiji attended a joint hearing by Senate Ways and Means and [Water and Land] Committees, expecting to speak regarding budget but was unexpectedly called to speak out of turn. Senator Lorraine Inouye (Hilo, Pauka‘a, Papaikou, Pepe‘ekeo) immediately stated her opposition to Act 255, her deep concern over entrusting conservation duties to MKSOA and announced her intent to sponsor a bill to subsume MKSOA under the authority of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) rather than the current status of being administratively attached, the justification being conservation. Senator Inouye expressed concern over the ostensible lack of oversight and accountability over budgetary expenditures and intent to execute further means of accountability over MKSOA. Chair asked Member Kaakua to supplement report with her observations from being present. Member Kaakua stated that Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC) was given as an example of “Attached Agencies” and noted the discussed distinction between MKSOA and KIRC based on budgetary differential. Member Kaakua suggested a possible informational presentation by DLNR Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands. Chair also noted a portion of the discussion related to citation authority, which Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement was unable to provide clarity on, and that this was a matter that still needed to be worked out.

V. GOVERNANCE

No report.

VI. ADMINISTRATION – Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items

A. DISCUSSION: Communication and Community Outreach Permitted Interaction Group (PIG)

Summary by Chair Komeiji: Use Request For Proposal (RFP) process to hire consultant/contractor to handle communications, possible need exists for multiple RFPs and contractors for different aspects of communication. Host four community meetings in person on Hawai‘i Island in 2024, four community meetings on other islands in 2025 in order to explain to community what MKSOA is doing and to receive feedback. Two items to be deferred for now: pending hire of contractor, best to fold communications duties into contractor until a position can be created and employee hired, also defer specific desired/suggested dates for

logistical reasons. No dispute from PIG members on deferring items.

Discussion:

Member Kudo: Probably a need or plural consultants, in his experience public and community relations typically separate individuals/firms, contractors themselves will have their own recommendations/preferences.

Chair Komeiji: Nothing in this vote would preclude the hiring of multiple consultants, currently looking into previous examples of other state agencies who have taken on consultants.

2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda: Point of clarification- community outreach meetings would be separate from regular meetings?

Chair Komeiji: Separate yes, but possibly on the same day but in evening in order to maximize community participation.

1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson: Stressed importance of good open communication with communities, and that people who care about the Mauna are able to understand what is happening and provide feedback is of highest importance.

I. VOTE: Recommendations of Communication and Community Outreach PIG

MOTION: Motion to approve recommendations: Member Horner Motion, 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda Second.

ACTION: Approved unanimously.

B. INFORMATIONAL: Transition Working Group and Co-Management Working Group

I. Appointment of Authority Members:

1. Co-Management Working Group- Chair Komeiji and 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson
2. Transition Working Group- Members Kudo and Horner

VII. FINANCE

No report.

VIII. OPERATIONAL UPDATE: CENTER FOR MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP

Director Chun: Weather is the predominant issue, summit access road has been closed several times recently. There have been two power outages, currently experiencing high winds. Several observatory crews have evacuated,

communications network disruptions have occurred, internet connection at mid-level facilities was out and made difficult processing credit card transactions at Visitor Information Center (VIS) but is back up.

Inventory update: Department managers are working on inventories, various stages of completion, administrative group has completed furniture and fixtures, information on existing service contracts and agreements almost complete, VIS inventory is complete, Resource Management nearly complete- finishing up with list of active research permits, Utilities and Food & Lodging have largest inventory and are therefore approximately 50% complete, Maintenance almost complete. January 17, 2024 deadline for completion. Facilities inventory has been the largest outstanding issue, a listing of deferred maintenance issues is also being compiled. UH General Counsel wants to do an internal review- to start by February. UH Board of Regents Chair has not yet designated UH representative to Transition Working Group.

Several Education & Outreach activities coming up, Rotary Club youth leadership camp to be held at Halepōhaku, First Nations Futures group January 24th-27th, community stewardship service project January 13th- volunteers from Pacific University, January 28th Mauna Kea observatories to do a community stewardship service project.

Member Adams: Any maintenance issues, leaks or service issues due to weather?

Director Chun: No

Member Beamer: When roads are closed, how is cultural access managed?

Director Chun: Cultural access is a challenge for several reasons, if a cultural practitioner insists on going up in unsafe conditions rangers will go with them. If people insist on going up past roadblock with or without rangers CMS does not chase people down (they make their own choices), whereas observatories have training and equipment to handle those situations.

2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda: When weather is bad observatory vehicles have tire chains and radios, tend to go up in caravans and have radio frequency identification (RFID) geotags, and return to Halepōhaku from summit can be monitored, in the future access should be managed nonexclusively but safely.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. The Authority anticipates convening in Executive Session pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(2), HRS, to consider and deliberate on the hiring of an employee and pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(3) to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Authority's power, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities in the following matter:
1. Legislative agenda
 2. Hiring of Executive director

MOTION: 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson moved to enter into Executive Session.

Member Kudo Second.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

Board entered into Executive Session at 10:47 am.

Board returned from Executive Session at 12:42 pm.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Legislature Opening Day- January 17, 2024

As many Board members as possible invited to be present at Legislature opening

B. Next Meeting: February 8, 2024, 10:00 am, as many Board members as possible are invited to attend in person.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Member Horner moved to adjourn. 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson Second.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 12:43 pm.

*Approved*_____