



## MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

19 E. Kawili Street, Hilo, HI 96720  
Telephone (808) 272-0259 Fax (808) 933-3208  
Website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/maunakea-authority/>

### PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 11, 2024

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

#### AUTHORITY MEMBERS

**PRESENT, Zoom:** Chairperson John Komeiji; Second Vice-Chair Rich Matsuda; Ben Kudo; Doug Adams; Paul Horner; Kamana Beamer; Bonnie Irwin; Lanakila Mangauil; Pomai Bertelmann

**EXCUSED Members:** First Vice-Chair Noe Noe Wong-Wilson; Kalehua Krug; Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole;

**MKSOA SUPPORT:** Jordan Ching, Deputy Attorney General (DAG); Pua'ena Ahn, Executive Assistant (MKSOA); John De-Fries, Executive Director (MKSOA)

**GUESTS:** Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS)

#### I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Opening remarks by Chair Komeiji. Poem by Kobi Yamada entitled, "Believe."

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Oral testimony by Clare Loprinzi

#### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2024 COMMUNITY MEETING AND MARCH 14, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**MOTION:** Motion by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda to amend meeting minutes from March 13, 2024 Community Meeting to reflect corrections to recorded comments as requested by Clare Loprinzi.

Second by Member Bertelmann.

**ACTION:** The motion was unanimously approved.

**MOTION:** Motion by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda to approve meeting minutes from March 13, 2024 Community Meeting as amended, and March 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Second by Member Bertelmann.

**ACTION:** The motion was unanimously approved.

Comment by Member Bertelmann expressing mahalo to Clare Loprinzi for her continued vigilance, care for Hawai'i and presence.

#### IV. CHAIR REPORT

##### A. Update on appointment of Authority Members

###### a. Appointment of Neil Hannahs to succeed Kamanamaikalani Beamer

Member Beamer has decided to allow his appointment to expire, and to decline reappointment due to substantial professional and family commitments;

Remarks by Member Beamer: Mahalo for everyone's efforts, it's been great serving together. He hana ko'iko'i kēia no ka Lāhui, no Mauna A Wākea, no ka holomua 'ana i ke aloha no ka 'āina, i ka 'ōlelo i ko kākou kūpuna. This is a really important initiative birthed out of community action and activism. It's been a tremendous honor serving alongside everyone. You guys get em, growing commitments at UH Mānoa Center for Hawaiian Studies, research lab at Aloha Kuamo'o 'Āina and new baby- she will only be this age once. Neil Hannahs will be a good replacement. I am always standing for the Mauna, will still be involved but just not in this capacity. Thank you John and Vice Chairs for your leadership. It's a tremendous lift setting up this Authority, this hasn't been done in a decade. Setting up the water commission took 9 years, what we've been able to do in 2 years is huge lift. Easy to overlook the time and commitment it takes. Letting the community know we have the right intentions to make even better outcomes is really critical.

Mahalo expressed to Kamana from Board Members

Chair Komeiji: Neil Hannahs' confirmation hearing today at 1pm, Member Beamer's appointment ends June 30th. Neil Hannahs would presumably start July 1st, hopefully be able to be included in discussions and kept informed as allowable in order to give him a running start if he is willing.

##### B. Introduction of John De Fries, Executive Director (MKSOA)-

Also want to extend mahalo to Member Beamer, remarks on mentorship- including by Neil Hannahs, and the assertion mastery. Referring back to 2/29/24 Board meeting, public has access to resume, but wanted to touch on personal information that is not typically reflected in a resume. Resident of Kona for 33 years, “parents would ship us [siblings] to Holualoa” during breaks since childhood. The irony of growing up in Waikiki in the 50’s, the warm, neighborly feeling is reminiscent of driving through Keaukaha today- multiethnic neighborhood with strong Hawaiian family presence. Growing up, Waikīkī was understood first as a source of food and medicine from the ocean and then recreation in that order through that upbringing, despite spending the last few years at HTA. Recognizing however, that over time there is a tendency to allow growing up working in business to cause you to drift from those values you were raised with. Starting job during MM week and being around that many practitioners and kumu was actually a gift as it turns out, reminded of growing up with practitioners steeped in hula constantly coming around his home as a child in Waikīkī. Expressed thanks to other ED applicants, for having in common desire to help, because there is a calling that Mauna needs help, and we can help. Mahalo to Board for the rigor the hiring process was handled with. Will speak later on 2 key staff positions. No children of his own, oldest of 4 brothers and 1 sister. Available to talk to anyone who wishes.

C. Report on National Science Foundation (NSF) Section-106 Consultation Process

A (mass) email was received in late march, NSF will be proceeding with Sec-106 Consultation process, and is soliciting consulting parties. Anyone who wishes to request to join as a consulting party can contact [consultingparty.tmt@nsf.gov](mailto:consultingparty.tmt@nsf.gov). NSF is planning to have first meeting during spring or summer of 2024 or later based upon anticipated planning needs.

**V. GOVERNANCE**

No Report.

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

A. Report of Executive Director De Fries

a. Status of other MKSOA personnel positions-

Prior to starting as Executive Director, 2 key positions had been posted, the Administrative Services Officer (ASO) and Project Director (PD). As of April 5th there have been a total of 13 applicants for ASO, as of April 3rd, 6 applicants for PD. PD posting was closed as of April 8. Vetting and interview process will take place next week for PD position, anywhere from one-third to one-half of ASO applicants will move on to interviews. An interim

temporary hire for ASO position has been initiated can be put in place in about 10 days, final paperwork has been put thru as of Monday and is being processed by DLNR HR, notice will be put out in approx 10-12 days. This person will be a big help to Member Kudo's Transition Working Group in particular, but will not replace the need for a contractor. Board will be notified before any public statement is made.

Chair Komeiji: One of the challenges Board members will have is previously having had to take on staff responsibilities, which are typically different from those of a Board. Will need to start to shift back toward determining policy and strategy rather than involving itself in day-to-day operational management.

B. Status of Transition Working Group (TWG)- Member Kudo-

TWG has been formed, aside from UH Board of Regents (UHBOR) designee due to non-confirmation of former Chair Nahale-a. Spoke to interim Chair Lee about appointing a designee, request has been taken under consideration and will likely occur shortly. Governor's appointee to UHBOR is pending confirmation and lives in Hilo, generally Chair's designee on Mauna Kea issues tends to be a Big Island resident but that is not guaranteed. TWG to meet this month, however, there is a problem of staffing. Literally thousands of pages of documents have been provided to TWG by UH of inventory, going through these documents to analyze and determine acceptability is a very heavy task. Chair Komeiji has been asked to secure a consultant for analysis and put together a transition plan for approval by MKSOA and UHBOR, process could take a year or more to go through. Procurement rules for hiring a consultant also heavily regulated, which is where [ASO temporary hire] would come in, otherwise delay in obtaining a consultant could cause TWG's work to stall. Meanwhile, TWG is going to start with a few documents of the leases and permits, which is the top heaviest about 130 of them in total, in order to get a sense of how to approach this.

Member Horner: Have started on leases, head is spinning, just need to get that work done.

Member Mangauil: Will there be any kind of assessment or report?

Member Kudo: After analysis of documents and input of data into a matrix, a transition plan will be submitted with recommendations with regard to each individual asset/liability whether or not to accept for transfer.

## VII. FINANCE

No report, still waiting on Legislature, MKSOA budget seems to still be intact, but Legislature is still in final month of processing. More to report at next

meeting.

## VIII. OPERATIONAL UPDATE: CENTER FOR MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP

### A. Report of Greg Chun, Executive Director, CMS

- a. Status of Underground Storage Tank removal and replacement- Welcome to ED De Fries, Mahalo to Member Beamer for his service and willingness to step into leadership; Department of Health permit requires that UH decommission tanks by July 2028, currently there are a 4000-gallon gasoline, 2000-gallon gasoline, and 12,000-gallon diesel tanks, original plan was replace with single dual(sided)-tank to hold both gasoline and diesel. Currently working on rescoping project based on Maunakea Observatories projected fuel requirements and operating changes, reduction of footprint to two 3000-gallon tanks for gas and diesel respectively, pending budget and project proposal approval. Also preparing for permitting.

Additional updates:

Hoku Kea Decommissioning- Work was supposed to start next week pending preconstruction submittals from contractor. Contractor will not be ready next week, will have to push back work by one week. Submittals need to be approved, some submittals need to be completed, press release also needs to be updated.

CalTech Submillimeter Observatory- Plans to resume decommissioning work next week, will be remobilizing and transporting equipment next week. Contractor Goodfellow Brothers says process will be completed in July. CalTech required to monitor for flora and fauna repopulation for 3 years under decommissioning subplan.

Cultural Resource Management Plan update- Kahu Kū Mauna met [March] 7th, CMS continues to work on a scope of work for a contractor. MKSOA interest in participating in project acknowledged, will work with ED DeFries on how MKSOA can be a part of process.

UHBOR- Michael Miyahira has been appt by gov to replace Alapaki on UHBOR, unsure when confirmation hearing is scheduled. Common practice is that Hawai'i island regents also sit as ex-officio members of Maunakea Management Board.

Education & Outreach- Resource Management and Outreach team have hosted several groups community groups, UHH Kīpuka (Native Hawaiian Student Services) to be hosted next week; UHBOR reso instructed CMS to expand outreach in partnership with with 'Imiloa. Visitor Information Station exhibits being improved and replaced, outdoor exhibits being designed with high school students from various charter schools.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**X. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- May 11, 2024, 10:00AM-12:00PM
- B. COMMUNITY TALK STORY SESSION- MAY, 2024, 6:00PM-8:00PM DLNR-DOFAW HILO BUILDING- 19 E. KAWILI ST.  
Also, Members Bertelmann, Mangauil and Krug Senate Water and Land Committee confirmation hearing next Tuesday, 4/16/24

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Member Kudo moved to adjourn. 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda Second.

**ACTION:** The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 am.

*Approved* \_\_\_\_\_