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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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\*ex-officio

## MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA) COMMUNITY MEETING

19 E. Kawili Street,  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Telephone (808) 272-0295 Fax (808) 933-3208  
Website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/maunakea-authority/>

MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, May 9, 2024  
6:00 pm

In person at 19 E. Kawili Street,  
Hilo, HI

Online via ZOOM, livestreamed at  
<https://www.youtube.com/@MaunaKeaSOA>

### AUTHORITY MEMBERS

**PRESENT, Zoom:** Chairperson John Komeiji; Second Vice-Chair Rich Matsuda; Doug Adams; Paul Horner; Lanakila Mangaui; Kalehua Krug; Pomai Bertelmann; Bonnie Irwin; Ryan Kanaka'ole

**EXCUSED Members:** Ben Kudo; First Vice-Chair Noe Noe Wong-Wilson; Kamana Beamer;

**MKSOA SUPPORT:** Jordan Ching, Deputy Attorney General (DAG); Pua'ena Ahn (MKSOA Executive Assistant); John De Fries (MKSOA Executive Director); Lloyd Unebasami (MKSOA Interim Administrative Services Officer)

**GUESTS:** Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Director, Canand-France-Hawaii Telescope (CFH); Neil Hannahs (incoming MKSOA Board member)

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji opened the meeting to order at 6:11 pm. The purpose of this talk story is to be able to introduce ourselves in a more relaxed and informal setting, as well as to allow Executive Director John De Fries to introduce himself

### II. INTRODUCTION OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOHN DE FRIES

A. Update on organizational capacity building

John De Fries introduction: Born and raised in Waikīkī, which at the time was a lot like living in Keaukaha today. Grew up visiting grandparents in Holualoa and lived in Kona for the last 30 years. Grew up working in tourism and real estate, became Executive Director (ED) of Hawai‘i Tourism Authority (HTA) in September of 2020 through September of 2023, and was then encouraged to apply for ED of MKSOA. Mauna Kea is a very personal subject, I had to go through own personal process. Working at HTA gave me an understanding of what an authority can and cannot do. When you build a hospital, the first people you hire are not doctors, you need people who know how to build it. I reached out to Lloyd Unebasami, who has the toolbox to do so, having worked at Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS), HTA, and was the State’s first Procurement Officer. Understanding the MKSOA Board is like looking at a 12-point star compass. As we build it out, we need to be able to implement the policy and direction of the Board. The complexity was the attraction to the position. In tourism there is talk about branding, etc. Hawai‘i’s brand is going to be determined globally by places like Mauna Kea, Lāhainā and Red Hill.

Lloyd Unebasami introduction: Born on Big Island, right across of Wailuku River, grew up on plantation and then moved to Honolulu. I used to walk up to the Pepeekeo post office and look up at Mauna Kea. Educated at UH Mānoa and became a CPA, met Governor Waihe‘e and was named first State Procurement Officer. Also worked for Research Corporation of the University of Hawai‘i (RCUH) and was able to go up the Mauna with RCUH. Took this position because I was told they needed help starting a new agency. Experience in starting a new agency with HTA, and served briefly as interim President of HTA. Keli‘i Wilson taught me that speaking the language is what it means to be Hawaiian, hearing the language gives me chills. I have to make sure my ears are open. I still have cousins here, I’m the second oldest of my generation

Neil Hannahs introduction: Roots in Kohala, grew up in Mā‘ili, raised by Kamehameha Schools, very much a child of Kamehameha. Generational irony of replacing Kamana Beamer, his father was my debate partner who became John Osorio. At that time, at Kamehameha was a military institution. The idea of the best way to be Hawaiian was to be educated not be Hawaiian. After returning home from college Fred Cachola took a chance on me and hired me on at the burgeoning Kamehameha Extension Education division. We were Hawaiians who were educated to run institutions that were not Hawaiian and would do the same thing to other Hawaiians. We did that with a sense of good faith, and they kept the language from us because they thought it would be better off with that yet we were the spark of the renaissance. My own classmates were the greatest resisters, asking what is Kamehameha doing? It (Kamehameha) struggled until we had our implosion

of leadership, and learned that the crucible of your life, some challenges you don't welcome, and we didn't welcome the challenges of Lokelani (Lindsey) and the political stuff, but it forced us to rethink a lot. I was really privileged to be a part of a group who helped do strategic planning and help reconnect ourselves. For the land issues, we need to create an optimal balance of educational, cultural and community returns. The job is not to look at it one simple-minded way, make money, or culture and we don't need money. Don't be single issued about it. They were very broad and holistic about it, you need to be moe Hawaiian, you need to look at this through the lens of our ancestors, and that was the journey of my life. From 2000-2015 running the land assets division, and the team we brought to the table, it was fun, and it was paradigm shifting, and it was a struggle. Between a system that wanted to continue doing what it did even though it led to failure, rather irrationally, versus how do you change that, how do you motivate that, how do you create proof points that de-risk the change? If you look at the Consuelo foundation, they were doing research on 'āina-based programs, around 1980-1986 there were about 10 or 20 around the state, then they looked at in 1990, then 2000, then 2010, and 2020. It went from a few pua around the ear to now, 'āina-based programs are encircling like a lei, and it's our people coming back. When we had the opportunity to start letting them on the land, it was like getting out of their way of what they wanted to do anyway, that they had their own sense of what their wellbeing was. It wasn't being kicked out and then being educated and then sent away, it was about being there and being kama'āina, being people knowledgeable, taking care of place, and community and all of that. That's what regenerative economies are, and we need to be working on that. After retiring from Kamehameha Schools I immediately created a consulting company, Ho'okele Strategies, because we weren't done yet. What came out of that experience was a tremendous sense of aloha, it was an amazing special place, and that's what keeps me in. Your generation, what you have in terms of capabilities, what we were taught but so much more cultural depth, it's inspiring.

Jean-Gabriel Cuby introduction: Grew up in France, lived in Morocco, Tunisia, Germany. My first time coming to Hawai'i about 35 years ago there were far fewer telescopes on Mauna Kea, as a young astronomer felt a degree of pride. I then came to Hawai'i almost every year as an observer or as a member of committess associated with Canada observatory. When I began to hear about the controversies around Keck Outrigger and TMT it became part of my education and how I was perceiving what we were doing. For years I heard about the master planning and preparation for TMT, and reading the Environmental Impact Statement and thought it was generally well done. And then 2014 arrived and Lanakila interrupts the groundbreaking ceremony, and 2015 demonstrations to protect Mauna Kea, and I am using the word protect deliberately. Following this, relationship to

Mauna Kea completely changed, how is it that everything I thought was well done blew up in a matter of hours and days? I felt compelled to have discussion within my own community, the astronomy community, and deconstruct misconceptions. Of course there are misconceptions on both sides, that's what happens when people don't talk to each other. I know what the misconceptions are in my community because for years I held them myself. In 2019 I did not understand why we would replay the same thing. It was never my intention to come to Hawai'i, but then the position opened. Two years into this job, there are two parts to my job, to engage with the community, and to talk to my community- the astronomical community, which is surprisingly the hardest part. The broader community has been very supportive, the difficulty with the astronomy community is that there have not been enough efforts to raise awareness. It is important to have these conversations in order to change the paradigm, astronomers need to take responsibility.

B. Open discussion with community attendees

Lanakila: A lot of our 'ohana wanted to come but right now is a busy time. It's very important to create the venue and the space to have these conversations. Keeping in mind that this Authority is not the result of good representatives, but came from the people. The Mauna Kea Working Group was a paradigm shift, and so is this. The paradigm shift is part of preparation for the generational shift. My role on the Board is the cultural practitioner position, which was part of pioneering and guiding this movement in Kapu Aloha. I brokered some of the first meetings between kia'i and TMT. The community needs to maintain some responsibility to and for this entity. I encourage and mahalo you all to participate in the process.

Kevin: Jean-Gabriel? It's refreshing to hear someone from the other side say how difficult it was with your side seeing or understanding both sides of the picture that it's probably your (astronomy) side.

Kyana: I joined the Kia'i movement in 2019 as it really affected me. I was brought in by Hinamoana [Wong-Kalu] as part of the māhū community to uphold cultural practices and cultural thinking as we show up to protect the Mauna. We as a people are warriors but it was really important to lead with aloha, and for us as māhū to uphold a certain level of discipline and respect as we were gathered. What's important for me to understand as we build the structure of this agency what are the proposed outcomes? What I'm learning is that a lot of the things that are being done up there on the top of the Mauna are able to be done in space. The only reason anyone wanted to build up there was for these telescopes that are no longer necessary here. What does the future look like up there as we think about the outcomes of this agency?

Chair Komeiji: Let's ask Rich, because that's something I wondered about the need for land-based telescopes.

Kevin: What's the point of building something up there that will be obsolete once its complete?

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Matsuda: That's a good question. I personally believe after being in the Working Group with Lanakila, in understanding all the different perspectives that if there's something that can be done more easily in space, then we should do that. I can give you some of the reasoning of why we are still useful on the Mauna. One of the things with regards to the size of the telescope that is able to be put into space and it's a magnitude much more expensive and difficult to achieve. To build a similar telescope on land, it's probably ten times more expensive to do it in space. You can never go and maintain it, so it has a shorter lifetime. For us, we go up and maintain the telescope, the science and technology get upgraded, every 5-10 years we bring new capabilities in. So for the 30 years Keck has been bringing up several generations of new technology. So that investment of time and effort of the people doing the science over the lifetime. And then as the physical size of the telescope you're able to put in space gets bigger over time it gets to a point where it becomes prohibitively expensive. Unless it becomes more innovative, there are no plans in the foreseeable future to put an extremely large telescope in space. The other thing I'll say is that the telescopes in space and the telescopes on the ground work together. Some of the things that have been found in earlier space missions have been followed-up on by Keck to give the full picture because of the different kinds of instrumentation and capabilities. But that's an important question for the Authority to be asking, based on those capabilities on the Mauna, whether they can be done more easily or more practically somewhere else.

Director Cuby: I understand that this is a very important question for you in the community. There are people who ask, if you build one big telescope can you remove the other one? It doesn't quite work that way for us because we need different telescopes at different capabilities. Even though we are building telescope being built in Chile, we are not going to stop using the other big telescopes. These types of telescopes create a different type of demand. All about complementarity between big and small telescopes, ground and space telescopes.

Kevin: What happened with the Canary Islands?

Kyana: Many of us if not most of us come from a place of 'a'ole building, my concern is that we are going to continue to build and make space for more people, more opportunities, more upgrades. My fear is that ultimately MKSOA is going to automatically become a compromising board rather than listen to what we have been fighting for for 10 years now, which is please stop building

on this mountain. It sounds like eventually this board is going to become a sort of processing system for astronomy. We had always hoped that the authority would be this restrictive security system moving forward. What do see yourselves doing alongside this?

Kevin: We don't want you to turn into another UH.

Chair Komeiji: The hospital isn't open yet. We haven't had any conversations about astronomy yet, up until August of last year we didn't even have one employee and that's why we hired John to build this. We're not ready to talk about astronomy or TMT. But the beauty of this is that never before have we had a chance for kia'i to sit on the Board and give voice to those who had none before, and do something that hasn't been done before.

Executive Director De Fries: My instinct and sense is, that wherever each of the 12 is today, they're going to have to continue to learn, teach and share that how you design a system, an organization that preserves that above all else. Because to get to the next level of consciousness, astronomers need to hear Mauna Kea, and Mauna Kea needs to hear astronomers. Business people need to weigh in, government experts need to, land management people, so that the make up is intentional by the discipline that each brings. But they need to keep teaching one another so that everybody comes from this and can make enlightened decisions. The hospital not open yet. And none of us know this, in the old days let's just go build an army.

Neil Hannahs: We're the Mauna Kea Stewardship Authority, we're not about the practices, we're about the Mauna itself, and putting that first and foremost in lens, rather than what can we do where. That is the history of land management, we can build a Waikīkī out of the wetlands and kalo lands and springs out of that area because we had the technology to do it, but was it the right thing to do for that land? And one the hard lessons we've learned in Hawai'i, we did that a lot of places where we just did things that we could, whether or not we should. And recalibrating and creating systems where you put, and we always said this, what does the land need, what does it want? Let's focus on that, our practices, what we do there then should be supportive as much as possible of that need of the land. And then you have a vibrant land and vibrant, thriving people in a vibrant place. That's nā maka kupuna, that's the wisdom. So that's what I see of the challenge, we said let's forget about that, and we had existing contracts, we had all kinds of stuff everywhere, you don't just snap a finger and wave a wand and it's all gone and you can make it perfect again, you know. It's something you have to number one, have the values really clear and then start to use those values in all your decision making. So I think what we talked about today, I have so much to learn about this whole thing, and we went through about a two decades of that with fish ponds and kalo, and streams, mauna and forest, so forth and change our thinking.

Kekoa: Speaking to the questions that were on the table, I work for Keck observatory as community relations coordinator. I was up at Pu'uhuluhulu, I was camping with my nephew, my sons and my daughter. Thinking about that movement, At the time I was questioning why it wasn't the younger generations that were the ones getting arrested. And you think about it, the kupuna would not allow for them not to be able to provide. So I was just interested. In regard to the two questions, I went up there wanting answers. I started to ask what it was they were doing up there, I started to see I couldn't get my answers. So I went down to Keck observatory and I started asking questions. The answers I was getting, I didn't understand. That's why I want to speak to the two things that I heard. Number one, it's very hard to be a kanaka today, it's extremely hard. Speaking to how you said it's all or nothing be built, and some of us are in support of innovation and want to move forward, and it's not one way or one fight. It's a very challenging place to reside. It's not about building any more, how come we don't get rid of all the telescopes because we have space telescopes. You folks, thank you for sharing. The way that I looked at it an learned while I've been working at Keck observatory, it's good to have technology that brings you to a whole new level. But you're not going to use an excavator to dig a hole that is 6 by 6. Yeah it's the greatest thing that can come in big but you're going to ruin everything. So the way that I look at it you have this tool that can do much better but it cannot do the fine little things. If you look at some of the images from JWST, it's like holding a grain of salt from your arm's distance and there's hundreds of galaxies inside of there which have 200 billion stars, and each one is so immense, like the universe is huge. You can't use that, I'm sure you can but it wouldn't be worth your money that you put into that space telescope to look at something that one of the (land-based) telescopes can look at. So in that regard, that's the way that I look at it, they go hand in hand. So you get the laborers over there, and the excavator over there, sweeping away the little bit of stuff, they're working together. And then with the culture side, it's extremely hard to have family members and community members challenge me, you know, the kind of stuff I catch. How come kánaka measuring each other in that way. So we're all trying to work together to figure it out, how do we all together and move forward. We're still really learning, we shouldn't be in it to win something. The only way we can do this is together. If no more building, if that's the case then ok. But to remove and hemo everything, that would be a hard pill for myself to swallow, knowing what the capabilities are, and what is within our grasp. I think a lot of what was going on, what I learned when I was at Pu'uhuluhulu, how come so many foreigners working at the telescopes? No more any kama'āina. So I endure, I stay on because I like figure out where we're headed. So just speaking to the two valid points, that's where the community talks that we have, because what anyone is saying, maybe you folks not hearing, maybe you folks not looking at, right? So that's where I think we're headed with these community talks, you know? I appreciate it.

Member Mangauil: There's one principle we put into the working group is that the Mauna is paramount. Everything that we put in place, the Mauna is what it has to be able to serve. So in my role and responsibility, what we have to look at is everybody is down here, the Mauna is up here. Even with all my practices as, my rights as a Kanaka Maoli is second to the overall health and wellbeing of the mountain. It's the mountain that gives us everything to be able to stand and claim that. So in that, we all come down to here and look at, then, what is appropriate, how are we able to care for the Mauna? That's for each particular group, entity, idea, that approaches the mountain, we have to prove ourselves, that we are not degrading the mountain. This is a big discussion, some people talk about the business, they think the business is the mountain. The mountain is the mountain. In putting the mountain as pinnacle, we are all going to have to go through the wringer. In my protocols, approaching the mountain requires a certain internal protocol, it's not just a place to go. The ultimate practice of Mauna Kea, was to stay off of it. Kea is not white, Kea is pure. Kea, purity. We're talking about untainted purity. What does that look like in this day and age? When I think of conservation for the Mauna, it means the ultimate rule is to protect the ecology. That's the kind of thing we're going to get to in the next 5 years. We've just got to set up the structure, that's why the agreement is we're not having those individual discussions right now, we've just got to form the body and the structure of how eventually, when we do open the door to have the conversation about those specific things like telescope use, or even planting projects, we have to have this set up already. It's a big kuleana, like you said we need to look forward to the next generation. For myself, I want to see more investment in the restoration of the ecology. Cute your little greenhouse, I want to see one as big as the parking lot that you chopped down 50 old growth trees for, turn the whole thing into a greenhouse.

Kevin: I know everyone on the Board has a life, but it doesn't seem like 5 years is feasible. We need to get this show on the road, in terms of managing and protecting the Mauna. I understand you guys not meeting every day, you guys not meeting every week. But is there a faster plan, where we can create a structure in maybe a year and a half, two years versus the five? Where we can start implementing whatever we're trying to do, is five years what we're looking at?

Chair Komeiji: 5 years is what's in the legislation but to tell you the truth we're trying to go as fast as we can. But the big challenge right now is getting through the State bureaucracy. To get a job description approved, we have to go through three different departments. One of the reasons we brought on Lloyd, he knows how to navigate that. We're trying to expedite things as much as we can, we understand.



Kimana: What type of protections do we have in place right now? While you folks focused on building this structure and making this foundation pa‘a, what do you have to ensure that keeps everything safe?

Chair Komeiji: One thing in the legislation is that there cannot be any new leases during the transition. But one thing that I really want to stress to you guys is that people you trusted before they got appointed as being leaders of the kia‘i, now they’re in this process, what I don’t get and what kind of irritates me sometimes is now, some of the Native Hawaiians don’t trust him (Lanakila) because he’s part of the process. Yesterday before he was part of the process they trusted him, so why don’t you continue to trust that if something is going wrong and we’re not doing what we’re saying we’re doing that he not going come out and start protesting us? So you’ve got to trust that the people who are good people who pointed for a different perspective, for the cultural perspective are going to be true to their thing, and that they’re going to call something out if we’re BS-ing you.

Kevin: It’s not that we don’t trust Lanakila, it’s that they gave us 5 weeks, not even 5 weeks, 30 days? 31 days to pick the board?

Member Bertelmann: First off mahalo for coming and for the absolutely amazing questions you folks are asking. This is exactly why one of our Permitted Interaction Groups created this process, because with the other processes we’ve been through that it was absolutely necessary for us to be able to have these conversations. Secondly, as an educator for 30 years in the lineal descendant seat, it’s going to take more than just the 11 or 12 of us to stand up this authority, it’s going to take all of us. One of the things that I had to understand for myself is what’s my pedagogy of practice and what is it that I’m wanting to ensure that my students understand as we work together? Really it comes down to two things: First it comes down to aloha ‘āina, and second thing it comes down to is how conservation and sustainability have the capacity to support the ecology of the natural resources. Specifically, Mauna Kea. I will echo what Chair Komeiji and Lanakila said, and what I know we all believe on this current Authority is that Mauna Kea is the center of the conversation and putting the mountain first is non-negotiable. I couldn’t have said that 10 years ago, but as we sit in this current space that is non-negotiable, it’s a first step but what solidified that is when we went collectively to Mauna Kea, to Pu‘uhuluhulu and acclimated and then went up to Hale Pōhaku and then up to the summit. It has become a practice of bringing the mountain into space, to start with words, mana‘o, sentiment on what Mauna Kea means to us. What has become a motivator is the fact that we are willing to learn from one another on this Authority, and that has really been an eye-opener. I really wasn’t sure what that was going to look like, but being able to ask each other questions, being able to lean in and ask for clarifications, especially when we start to use language that we’re not kama‘āina to. I’m one of the least likely candidates to

be here honestly, and this realm is not where I feel the most comfortable. I feel comfortable in a setting where we are reforesting because that is my kuleana with my students to rebuild the structure of the forest that was taken down by our own people generations ago, that is my practice. It is to restore the water molecule and the regenerative practice of the water molecule in Waimea, a place where all things pertaining to water is from, that is where I'm most comfortable. I ask myself the question, why am I here? It is because our keiki, our hanauna and the generations after us, the ones that are 2, 5, 20, 12, 20 need to know that they can sit in this seat, that we're not looking at people who are in State government wale nō. They're looking at the aunties and the uncles that are their coaches, that take them to do reforestation projects, that take them to the ocean so they can do the coastal and ocean cleanup and restoration of fishponds, and know that because they are in that same type of hana and restorative movement on island and on land base that they have the capacity to be in these seats. That for me is absolutely integral, and when I reflect on some the individuals that I sit on this Authority with, some of us are mākuā, some of us ar kupuna, I get the sense that's why many of us are here too, because we do want the change and reform. I appreciate the questions about what's next and where are going, and how much faster can we pace ourselves. I understand the desire to move things quickly but I also that to build anything good we need to take our time and do it well. We also don't want to feel like we're alone, of course we also don't want to get 100 cracks, But to feel like we're not alone and that other people share the same sentiment. I did want to point out a document that was put together back in 2015, practitioners from about 25 different environmental restorative practices came together. I did want to direct everyone to the Kīho'īho'ī Kānāwai, Restoring Kanawai for Island Stewardship document that was created by these people. And one of the things that it absolutely speaks to is the Kīho'īho'ī Kānāwai, the restorative practice of landscape, whether it's through natural disaster or transformation of ecology, or also when humans crease adverse change in space. It's a really beautiful document that has the capacity to guide how we see the lens of Hawai'i, and how we see it being utilized and give consciousness to a lot of the thoughts that were shared this evening.

Laura Acasio: When I was a State Senator one of the first meetings I had was with Rich within the first couple weeks, I think it was one of the best meetings that I had. The reason why I bring that up is because I feel it's a really big part of what's been said tonight. In terms of why I'm here tonight is because I can dialogue in conflict resolution regardless of any specific outcome. It's really important to have this, creating and having the space. In that meeting with Rich we talked less about astronomy than about things that we really do care about, like making sure folks are housed, and our kids and thriving community, which are really important aspects of the things we share. I'm committed to being here as a community member, I think it's important because it's not going away. I really trust everyone on this board, but what I was going to bring up is it's

really about about historical precedent of boards and commissions and the lack of public trust. Although in the original act it does say that astronomy is a priority of the state, and although the team that has come together right now is looking at Mauna Kea as the focal point, there is language in the act that says that, and I think that potentially has conflict in the sense of building public trust. Hopefully that's where this goes, is continue to build public trust.

Neil: The experience I've had really echoes that. I'm not even on the job and I sense the urgency. We move at the speed of trust, you can do the task faster but if the task gets done and nobody trusts the result, why did you do it? There's a lot going on to build trust, this is not the only venue to build trust. There's lots of ways to engage in that and support that. I think we rightfully put the focus on the Mauna, but our kupuna were interested in astronomy too. I think our kupuna had an understanding of the relationship we have to everything, to the first extent of the heavens, that's ohana too. We were very curious about it, and we observed and chronicled a lot of that observation and data, and sharing that with the astronomy community would be really rich discussion, and a way to build trust. Maybe that's already happened and what 'Imiloa does, but what our kūpuna knew, and how they understood that is just mind boggling.

Kimana: Throughout all the years I've thought about what our kūpuna have chosen, what would our ali'i have chosen? That's always been a conflicting question, because I have a very strong sense of what I would choose. Be we also see a lot of the choices that are made when we had the power to make these choices and how it has affected us generations back. So I hear what you're saying, and that it always kind of lingers, like what would Lili'u do? What would Mama Luka do? But I appreciate what you said but I think that this is where trust comes in. This (Lanakila) is my good friend, it's definitely not a trust thing. Many of our concerns is the history that we've known when boards and commissions come together. As I walk away from this gathering here, how do we make sure that those seats don't get watered down. A huge trust builder right there is to ensure that those are written into this commission's bylaws and that there is a way to challenge when we see that it's getting watered down. When we see these seats getting watered down, ensure the board is pa'a and making the right decisions.

Chair Komeiji: Just so you know, some of these board members got re-nominated and went through the process of confirmation, and that the Hilo business community stood up to support.

Laura Acasio: I was in State Senate at the time the nominations for the Board were due and if it wasn't done within a certain time period, and we were having caucus, for Governor Green to approve of then Governor Ige would choose. I remember when the names care out, I knew Rich and some of the others, I felt like this will be a great conversation, although you guys aren't even getting to

the conversation yet. Because of the timing of the nominations and conversations and we were going in to new elections, the more you're involved in one thing the more minute details you know. We've got to explain that but government doesn't necessarily do a good job of explaining these processes.

Neil Hannahs: Including my 8 years on the Water Commission. When the government doesn't get it right, then the people stand up. Kaleo Manuel and so forth, 20 hours of hearings showing up. Better you don't make the decision. Even my replacement on the water commission has turned into this debacle, this self-inflicted wound because you didn't do the right thing. But you do the wrong thing and you pay the price, the people are engaged.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Matsuda: Back in 2019 we felt very stuck, that our future was very uncertain and limited. The feeling was that this (TMT) was not a path forward and that Native Hawaiian representation was the path forward, because we didn't see a way out. When the legislation for the bill came out, several observatories came out in support. to Jean-Gabriel's point that those of us in Hawai'i get it more than those who come to use the telescope.

[Braddah]: Do you folks contract the telescope out?

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair Matsuda: No, it's done through scientific partnerships.

Kyana: I think it's really important what you said, it's very difficult to be a modern-day Hawaiian, of course you get those old school Hawaiians who say, you think you've got it bad but you've got Instagram, those arguments right? Many of us who are stuck in the past have never thought about how would we have evolved as a people over time with the influences that we've had. I'm executive director of a national nonprofit that deals in a lot of LGBT issues, and work with a lot of black and brown communities, and one of the constant things I try to remind the folks that I work with is that native people have so many good nuggets of values and perspective around relationship and communication and aloha 'āina that could change the way with across the spectrum, having that cultural knowledge across the centuries.

Chair Komeiji: What you just described is what I'm trying to do, using the essence of Hawai'i what some people would describe as aloha, the ability to sit here tonight and have an honest discussion and talk about hard stuff yet be respectful and trust each other. That's been one of my goals to create this safe space to have these discussions and move forward together, we don't want to come like the mainland where everybody just yelling at each other.

Bill Stormont: From Hilo, first Director of OMKM, helped create the first master plan. We've done what's happening now, stand up a new organization, create a management board made of community members that brought certain

perspectives, a cultural advisory council. We tried to do that within the university, which was very challenging. I was there from 2001, throughout the contested case hearings for instance. I've been walking on Mauna Kea since small kid time, in the Youth Conservation Corps 48 years ago in 1974. I've watched over the years this effort to create a new body that is not through the university kind of upset me to begin with because I was a part of that, and I thought we did some really good things. And the interactions that we were able to have with the observatory staff were interesting, at first they were resistant to there being a new sheriff in town. But we tried to ensure that they understood coming to us and having these conversations was going to be good for them, and help them get where they wanted to go, based on what the plan said. Right now the university is doing a really good job monitoring natural resources and cultural features, and it took a while to get there. But eventually thought that if this authority is going to be created and the role university is going to be a distraction, then maybe this authority is the way to go, I'm hopeful. Many of the people in the observatories were going up and down the mountain and had no idea of all the cool stuff they were driving by,

Kevin: Last question, you think the management plan was good, so do you agree that what the management plan was good, pertaining to grandfathering in leases? Because there was definitely mismanagement.

Bill Stormont: Comprehensive Management Plan was a result of the contested case hearing process which began before 2000. There was definitely mismanagement before 2000.

### **III. UPDATE ON 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

- A. Appointment and Confirmation of Authority members
- B. Legislation regarding Sunshine Law – HB 2962 “RELATING TO THE MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY”; Provides limited flexibility within Sunshine Law to MKSOA and clarifies that MKSOA is subject to State Sovereign Immunity.
- C. Open discussion with community attendees

### **IV. UPDATE ON TRANSITION WORKING GROUP**

- A. Open discussion with community attendees

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

Closing by Lanakila- Mālana Mai

Meeting closed at 8:20 pm