



## 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, May 9, 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; Bonnie Irwin; Lanakila Mangaui; Pomai Bertelmann; Kalehua Krug; Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole;

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

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

**GUESTS:** Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS); Neil Hannahs (incoming MKSOA Board member); Michael Miyahira (UH BOR)

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

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Opening remarks by Member Horner, reflection on growing up with grandmother and lessons on the value of ho'ohanohano, or respect, the importance of honoring the dignity of others and conducting oneself with integrity and distinction.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

#### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2024 REGULAR

## BOARD MEETING

**MOTION:** Motion by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda to approve meeting minutes from April 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. Second by Member Bertelmann. Technical amendment to date of May meeting in Announcements section by Member Adams.

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

### IV. CHAIR REPORT

- A. Appointment of Neil Hannahs to succeed Kamanamaikalani Beamer; Introduction of Neil Hannahs

Introduction of new UH BOR Regent Mike Miyahira. Introduction of Neil Hannahs- incoming MKSOA Board member, confirmed by State Senate. Currently serving on Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) and will not begin term with MKSOA until July 1 as of completion of term on CWRM June 30. Remarks by incoming member Hannahs on the irony of reversed order of generational succession, as well as time spent in previous role at Kamehameha Schools, participation on other boards and a desire for impact as well as experiences on CWRM.

### V. GOVERNANCE

No Report. Report by Executive Director De Fries to be added as a permanent fixture of future agendas as of next meeting.

### 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- Welcome to Regent Miyahira and incoming member Hannahs. In time since starting, focus has been on catching up and capacity building. Referred to memo introducing Lloyd Unebasami as temporary interim hire for Administrative Services Officer (ASO) position. Self introduction by ASO Unebasami- born on Hawai'i Island, went to Hilo Union School, spent lots of time at grandparents' house at Pepe'ekeo Plantation and knows the old Hilo way of life; Recalled a favorite childhood memory of walking to Pepe'ekeo post office and looking up at Mauna Kea, hopes to make a positive contribution to meeting the goals of the organization. ED and ASO will be joining Management Plan PIG meeting today and Transition Working Group (TWG) meeting next Friday, 5/17. Will also be scheduling a series of meetings with CMS ED Chun. Interviews have been for Project Director position, selection has been made but it is premature to announce at this time. Expecting position to be operational by July 8th.

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

Second TWG meeting took place on April 19, attended by Members Kudo and Horner, DAG Ching, CMS ED Chun, Jesse Souki- UH General Counsel, Russel Tsuji and Kevin Moore- DLNR and Michael Caine fom Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands. No representative from UH Board of Regents, Regent Miyahira to be added as UH BOR designee. Meeting was used to address preliminary issues. Need legal counsel to assist Working Group in analysis of 1000's of pages of documented assets and liabilities and create a matrix of characteristics and recommendations on whether ot assign. Transition Plan to be provided to UH BOR, MKSOA, BLNR for approval. Other considerations include 5-year Transition and Post-Transition periods as per Act 255. Major leases and subleases, entitlements, operating agreements, personal property to be analyzed in that order. AG's office to handle procurement of Special Counsel

Member Adams: Regarding approval of elements of Transition Plan, is there already implementation instructions in terms of coming to an agreement?

Member Kudo: Any disagreements will me transferred to the Co-Management Working Group to discuss and resolve.

Chair Komeiji: Clarification that TWG will be coming up with recommendations for MKSOA Board to approve by vote, rather than any decision making by TWG.

**VII. FINANCE**

No report.

**VIII. OPERATIONAL UPDATE: CENTER FOR MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP**

A. Report of Greg Chun, Executive Director, CMS

- a. Status on Decommissioning- Both CalTech Submilimeter Observatory (CSO) and Hōkū Ke'a are underway. CSO completed removal of mirror in Fall of 2023, site work halted for winter and restarted week of April 15. Dome is expected to be completely removed by June, although there have been 3 days of delays due to high winds at summit. Foundation to then be removed and site restoration phase to begin, be completed by September. Three-year site monitoring would then begin as per DLNR permit. Progress can be viewed by live webcam provided by Subaru observatory on CMS website on the weather center page. Hōkū Ke'a site work started week of April 22, equipment has been mobilized to the site but work has not started due to high winds. Utilities and cabling has already been removed. Dome and foundation removal, site restoration expected to be completed by August 2024. After site restoration, site monitoring process to begin. Lessons learned: Because of the multiple contractors and subcontractors involved, on-site chain of

command, coordination and communication between contractors, rangers, utilities staff, observatory staff and public crucial.

Member Magauil: Request to be notified when foundation removal is expected to begin in order to notify cultural practitioners so that protocols may be conducted.

- b. Status on Underground Storage Tanks- Current underground tanks to be removed by 2028, current tank is 12,000 gallon (gal.) capacity. Original idea was to replace with 10,000 gal. dual capacity split-tank with 5,000 gal. for gasoline and 5,000 gal. for diesel fuel. Based on intention of some observatories to transition to electric fleets and revised fuel needs estimates, CMS currently evaluating possibility of two moveable 3,000 gal. above-ground tanks with built in dispensing stations. Engineering contractor currently working on specifications for project proposal, permitting and procurement. Final project proposal to be provided to MKSOA for review.
- c. Explanation of Annual Stewardship Surveys- Annual cultural resource and arthropod monitoring surveys take place during summertime when weather is amenable as per Comprehensive Management Plan. Resource Management team currently preparing plan for this summer's management plan. Last year's survey identified 260 historic sites, 90 monitored annually and 111 arthropod survey sites. Some sites are remote and difficult to access, sometimes requiring a helicopter drop.

Member Bertelmann: Regarding heavy equipment and large vehicles going up to the summit, is there a sanitization plan in place to reduce the spread of foreign materials?

ED Chun: All vehicles are inspected at their site of origin and issued a permit, and rangers conduct an inspection when they arrive. Vehicles have been turned back and CMS does reserve the right to deny access to any vehicle, whether contractor or public.

## IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. The Authority anticipates convening in Executive Session pursuant to Section 92-5(a)(4) to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Authority's power, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities.
  - a. OHA lawsuit status
  - b. Authority conferred to MKSOA under Act 255 relating to Governance Framework

**MOTION:** Motion by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda to move into Executive Session. Second by Member Horner.

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

## X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- JUNE 13, 2024, 10:00AM-12:00PM
- B. COMMUNITY TALK STORY SESSION- MAY 9, 2024, TONIGHT  
6:00PM-8:00PM, HALE 'ŌLELO- UH HILO, 113 NOWELO ST.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Member Horner moved to adjourn. Member Kudo Second.

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

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

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