



## 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, June 13, 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); Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General (DAG); Ewan Rayner, Deputy Attorney General (DAG); Pua'ena Ahn, Executive Assistant (MKSOA); John De Fries, Executive Director (MKSOA); Lloyd Unebasami, Interim Administrative Services Officer (MKSOA)

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

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

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. Opening remarks by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, remarks on current experiences at FestPac. Observed a recurring theme of care for the earth, the lands that feed us, not only as native peoples but as people of the earth. Pule E hō mai.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

#### III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2024 10AM REGULAR

## BOARD MEETING AND MAY 9, 2024 6PM COMMUNITY MEETING

**MOTION:** Motion by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson to approve meeting minutes from May 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and May 9, 2024 Community Meeting subject to technical amendments.  
Second by Member Kanaka'ole.

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

### IV. CHAIR REPORT

- A. Summary of Community Talk Story Session held on May 9, 2024- Minutes very detailed, great session, good community participation. Most importantly, everyone was able to engage with difficult issues from different perspectives calmly and respectfully.

[Recess at 10:15 AM due to technical difficulties; Return at 10:32 AM]

Hoping for greater community participation in the future, worth the risk of contention.

- B. Meeting with National Science Foundation (NSF)- Federal Tribal Consultation efforts and Section 106 Consultation hearings.- NSF has embarked on 2 initiatives, TMT is one, but the other has the potential to affect indigenous peoples across the US. NSF informed Chair Komeiji and Executive Director De Fries that they were have been meeting with unspecified Native Hawaiians, but separately from the Section 106 Consultation process for potential TMT funding.

Member Mangauil: Pertaining to TMT, is there any update as to what their process is or where they are at specific to TMT?

Chair Komeiji: No, we do know more from media than directly from NSF that National Science Board has determined that NSF is only able to fund one giant telescope, either TMT or the one in Chile. Decision may be made in September following comparison of the two projects. No other discussion on TMT occurred.

2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda: According to NSF representative at National Astronomical Conference, review meeting with NSF to occur in July, presentations by both projects to take place.

Chair Komeiji: Unsure how this is affected by US Senate proviso stating desire for NSF to fund two telescopes.

### 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- Four candidates for Program Specialist [Compliance] position. Will commence with interviews for this position in the second week of July. Seventeen total candidates for Administrative Services Officer position, interviews to also take place during those first and second weeks of July. Met with CMS ED Chun and his leadership team together with MKSOA Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami late in May, thanks to ED Chun and his team for their time and effort. Board should have received a memo prior to this meeting announcing the selection of Bill Stormont for Project Director. Bill Stormont to introduce himself here.

Bill Stormont: Aloha to Chair Komeiji and Board Members, I appreciate the opportunity to return to Mauna Kea in a management role. Deep relationship with Mauna Kea dating back 48 summers to building fences and trails with the Youth Conservation Corps, started career pursuit of conservation and resource management in Hawai'i. To be able to return to care for the summit of Mauna Kea is a cherished opportunity and is appreciated greatly. I look forward to shaking hands and spending time on the mountain with all of you.

Executive Director De Fries: Also want to thank all the candidates for caring enough about Mauna Kea and the Authority to apply and compete for the position. Program Specialist interviews are being moved back to the 2nd week of July in order to allow Bill to participate.

**VII. FINANCE**

No report.

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

A. Report of Greg Chun, Executive Director, CMS

- a. Decommissioning update- Hōkū Ke‘a Decommissioning project is essentially completed, UHH Facilities Group has been the Project Manager and has conducted its final inspection with the contractor on May 30, 2024. Project has been deemed substantially complete. One small piece of work that the engineers will come and check tomorrow, no anticipated issues. Completion report for Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands is currently being prepared.

1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson: Is the project complete up to the concrete pad, or has the concrete pad been removed?

ED Chun: The concrete pad has been removed, and a soil inspection has been performed on what was underneath, nothing

found. Concrete pedestal telescope sat on has also been removed, all concrete material has been taken off the Mauna.

1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson: Can you describe where the fill material came from?

ED Chun: Fortunately we didn't have to bring in very much fill material. What was brought in came from just below the CalTech Submillimeter Observatory (CSO) worksite, where fill material from previous projects has been stored. All fill material is from the Mauna.

CSO Decommissioning- Photo onscreen is from last week, almost done with removal of foundation concrete. Site grading and restoration to begin next week, this project is ahead of schedule as well. Project expected to be complete by the end of July. Webcam livestream available on CMS weather center website, Subaru Observatory camera.

- b. Cultural artifacts update- When UH conducted an archaeological survey in 2009, there was material from the adze worksites that were collected for additional study. These materials have been housed at CMS facility here in Hilo, are inventoried and included in repository provided to MKSOA Transition Working Group. No further need to keep this material beyond a small amount for educational purposes and are seeking other curatorship or disposition options. DLNR has final say on what is to be done because material originates from UH-leased lands. State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) has indicated a desire to transfer ownership to UH. UH to discuss further with MKSOA, Office of General Counsel, Kahu Kū Mauna and SHPD due to the possibility of triggering the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Member Mangauil: Offering for myself and [1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson] to be a part of this conversation as cultural practitioners, as this is a matter that necessitates practitioner care and stewardship, which itself has been left out of the conversation until now.

Member Adams: Is there a timeline in place?

ED Chun: No, just exploratory at this time.

Neil Hannahs: This is an archaeological inventory, but is there an existing repository on non-physical artifacts such as mo'olelo?

ED Chun: UH did commission Kepā [Maly] to compile such a repository which is available on our website in two volumes, not just mo'olelo but oral history. That is the most complete work we have that was done back in [20]'04-'05.

Neil Hannahs: So it's protected, it's accesible and it can be added to?

ED Chun: It could be updated but we haven't yet.

- c. Briefings for MKSOA staff- Met with ED De Fries and Iterim ASO Unebasami May 22-24, 2024, gave a comprehensive overview of CMS operations and meet all the managers at Halepōhaku. Interim ASO Unebasami also joined Maunakea Shared Services (MKSS) Oversight Committee meeting on June 5, 2024. This committee is made up of the observatory representatives who approve shared services budget. We will have as many meetings as needed to get ED De Fries, Interim ASO Unebasami and [incoming] Project Director Stormont up to speed.

FYI- Annual status update before Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) as per Comprehensive Management Plan is scheduled for June 28, 2024 BLNR meeting. Will be providing updates on Management Plan, stewardship activities and major accomplishments.

## 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. Legal implications of Kanahele v. State of Hawaii

**MOTION:** Motion by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson to move into Executive Session. Second by Member Horner.

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

Board entered into Executive Session at 11:04 am.  
Returned from Executive Session at 11:25 am.

## X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- JULY 11, 2024, 10:00AM-12:00PM

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_