

Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA)
Community Talk-Story

Community Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 2025, 5:00 pm – 7:10 pm
Kahilu Town Hall, Waimea

[Meeting Recording](#)

Note: This document provides a broad synthesis of the meeting presentation and discussions. As a directive from MKSOA, the spelling of Mauna Kea is utilized in this synthesis. The meeting recording is available for public viewing [here](#). If you have any questions or would like to provide additional comments, please email <mailto:jmksoa.community@hawaii.gov>.

5:00PM Opening Protocol (Lanakila Mangauil)

Welcoming Remarks (Pomai Bertelmann, Rich Matsuda)

- Welcome the Board to Waimea (Pomai Bertelmann, Rich Matsuda, Lanakila Mangauil)
 - Appreciation to everyone attending tonight's community conversation and for taking time to be here.
 - The intention of the MKSOA is to bring everyone together to talk story, listen to community voices, have active participation to plan for the future, and share back with the Board.
 - A shared appreciation for people bringing keiki to the meeting as the kuleana of this work goes beyond the current generation.

Introduction of Facilitator (Facilitator Mahina Paishon)

- Introduction of Hawai'i Island Mayor Kimo Alameda
- Introduction of MKSOA Board Members
 - Goal: The goal of the MKSOA Board is to set the context in order for the community to have productive conversations. Tonight, the Board's goal is to listen and learn from the community feedback shared.
 - John Komeiji, Business/Finance, Chair
 - Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, House Appt, 1st Vice Chair
 - Rich Matsuda, Maunakea Observatories, 2nd Vice Chair
 - Mayor Kimo Alameda, Mayor County of Hawai'i
 - Pomai Bertelmann, Lineal Descendant
 - Neil Hannahs, Land Management
 - Paul Horner, Senate Appt (not present)
 - Dr. Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor, UH Hilo (non-voting) (not present)
 - Ryan Kanaka'ole, Department of Land and Natural Resources (not present)
 - Kalehua Krug, Educator (not present)
 - Benjamin Kudo, Former UH Regent (not present)
 - Lanakila Mangauil, Cultural Practitioner
- Introduction of MKSOA Staff
 - John De Fries, Executive Director
 - Bill Stormont, Project Director
 - Lloyd Unebasami, Interim Administrative Services Officer
 - Pua'ena Ahn, Executive Assistant

MKSOA Background and History (Dr. Noe Noe Wong-Wilson)

- Following the stand on Mauna Kea in 2015 and 2019 and the urging of kia‘i to change management structure for Mauna Kea, the House of Representatives responded with a Resolution in 2021 to form the Mauna Kea Working Group with the purpose of investigating how Mauna Kea should be managed. The 15 member group consists of representatives from community and government. The Working Group submitted a Report and recommendations that led to the introduction of a Bill that became [Act 255](#). Act 255 established the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA). The MKSOA has 4 members that were part of the Working Group, 8 of the MKSOA members are Native Hawaiian, 7 members are from the community, 3 are government representatives including the mayor, and 1 representative is from Maunakea Observatories. The purpose of the Authority was to give voice to the community, particularly to Native Hawaiians. The diversity in MKSOA Board members, purpose of the board, and Framework of MKSOA differentiates MKSOA from other existing government organizations in Hawai‘i.
- The Unifying Purpose of MKSOA reads: “We recognize that Native Hawaiians have an inseparable environmental kinship with ‘āina. Therefore, the health and integrity of Mauna Kea is paramount. Our purpose is to establish a collaborative and holistic management framework for Mauna Kea that is grounded in kānāwai and the laws of nature; prioritizes Native Hawaiian voices; contributes to environmental and social justice; and is sensitive to diverse perspectives.”
- Values and guiding principles embedded in the Working Group and in the law guides the MKSOA. The values and guiding principles include:
 - Mauna Aloha -- We understand the reciprocal value of the mauna and our long-term commitment to maintaining the integrity of Mauna Kea.
 - ‘Ōpū Kūpuna -- We understand and embrace our duty and accountability to Mauna Kea, the natural environment, and to perpetuate the Hawaiian cultural values embedded in the sacred landscape of the mauna.
 - Holomua ‘Oi Kelakela -- We are driven by creativity and innovation, constantly challenging the status quo. Our stewardship of Mauna Kea is informed based on existing knowledge and traditions (kānāwai) as well as on new and expanding knowledge. We are mindful and observant of needs, trends, and opportunities and seek new knowledge and opportunities in ways that enhance our ability to serve as stewards without jeopardizing our foundation of ‘āina aloha.
- Kānāwai or the laws of nature are expressed by Dr. Pualani Kanaka‘ole Kanahele in a [video](#) starting at 44:46 of meeting recording:
 - Kānāwai is law, a code or regulation. Kānāwai is about kanaka maoli people educating others about what is happening on their land. Kānāwai is being conscious of the land, what it is doing and what our boundaries are. Four laws of the land include:
 - Ho‘okikī kānāwai is a law of continuum. This law measures what flows. This includes water as it is the main source of life and allows for an awareness of water flows. The other flow that is measured is magma which comes out of the ground and flows into the ocean, this gives us land. Raising consciousness of the water flows that give life in the ahupua‘a of Kaohe, the water that runs between Hāmākua to the top of Mauna Kea and the water that is caught between the two basins.
 - Kua‘ā kānāwai or the law of the burning back is understood as the gestating of landscape. It is compared to an ali‘i of high rank who is unapproachable because they are out of reach. Similarly, certain landscapes need to be held sacred because of what they provide and are necessary to our existence. The

two places that should be held to this reverence are volcanoes then rivers, streams, coral heads, and wet forests as they help to reproduce what is on the land.

- Kai‘okia kānāwai is the law of natural boundaries. Taking into consideration how landscapes are moving and understanding the boundaries. Knowing the boundaries as a person and knowing the boundaries of the land.
- Kīho‘iho‘i kānāwai is the law of regeneration and reciprocity and is similar to the law of continuum. It is continuing for generations. This includes the generation of native trees, native birds, and insects to be aware of the regeneration of food sources. A sense of reciprocity comes from the first two lines of the Kumulipo, which ties to the first kānāwai. It talks about the lava, when hot, it makes our land hot. When our earth is hot and steam is coming up, it clouds the sky and hides the sun. It is returning water to the space above and turning into clouds. Eventually, that cloud system returns water to us.

Introduction of [Strategic Framework Draft](#) (Neil Hannahs, John De Fries)

- Act 255 was signed into law in July 2022 and effectively started MKSOA on July 1, 2023. Act 255 created a 5 year or 60 month transition period. MKSOA is in month 22 of 60 and is preparing its Strategic Framework to complete stated goals and accelerate this transition in the next 38 months, as required by the legislation.
- Background of the Strategic Framework
 - The creation and development of the Strategic Framework honors the mandated legislation by the State of Hawai‘i, the core values, mission, and the guiding principles articulated in the Working Group Report and Act 255.
- MKSOA is a values driven organization that aims to transparently lay out its values by creating a Strategic Framework that ensures both MKSOA and the Framework’s values are aligned and consistent. The Strategic Framework leans heavily on the Report created by the Working Group.
- The [Strategic Framework](#) serves as a navigational tool for the upcoming Management Plan. A [Request for Proposals](#) is set to be released on April 18th, 2025 for the creation of a Management Plan. The Strategic Framework will be used as a guide in the proposal for prospective offerors and will guide the development of the Management Plan. The Strategic Framework is being created by the Board as a guiding document. The RFP will solicit a contractor to write the new Management Plan for MKSOA, as part of Act 255. The Strategic Framework will frame the writing of the Management Plan being written by the contractor.
- MKSOA is releasing a [Request For Proposals](#) (RFP) on April 18, 2025. The RFP is the vehicle to solicit contractors to write the new Management Plan. The goal of the RFP is to secure a contractor for the writing of the Management Plan which includes a Financial Plan. MKSOA has identified major management companies in Hawai‘i and Native Hawaiian cultural consultants who have successfully completed work to this scale and can ensure the standards of the four kānāwai are implemented in the Plan.
- MKSOA staff is working closely with project manager, Christopher Daggett, utilizing a project management and tracking software (Trello) to organize and track all MKSOA management and Board actions, projects, tasks, processes, and meetings with a high degree of specificity, including where appropriate and necessary, timelines, deadlines, specific needs and actions, and responsible parties, all on a shared web-based platform available to staff and Board members.

Breakout Session to Discuss Strategic Framework -- please see Appendix A for the verbatim post-it notes that were posted for each question.

What is Not Understandable and Why?

- *Need More Time to Review Related Documents*
 - More time is needed to process the contents of the Strategic Framework.
 - Setting time to review or reference the current management plan in a future community meeting.
- *Related to Native Hawaiian Culture*
 - What is permitted for Native Hawaiians and who makes that determination?
 - Native Hawaiian culture is not understood by all.
 - Explaining the laws of kānāwai:
 - Bringing the concept to life without the video.
 - Creating imagery, in addition to the language in the packet, to support the reader's understanding.
 - Edict of emerging cycles remains unclear.
 - A need for more context on the kānāwai concept, potentially including behaviors and operations explaining the laws.
 - Clarifying the difference between aloha 'āina and 'āina aloha.
- *Guiding Principle #4*
 - Clarifying what the specific policy of the state is, how it came to be, and why it is in the Strategic Framework.
 - Broadening the support of astronomy to include technology and knowledge.
 - Clarity of what types of astronomy are being protected by state policy.
- *Mission and Purpose Statement*
 - It may be too general and need more context for understanding.
 - May need language beyond fostering.
 - Reviewing the wording as it seems to directly support astronomy.
- *Core Values*
 - Having better understanding of names of core values as they seem like vague descriptions and may not be understandable.
 - Understanding who the core values apply to.
- *Ties with Section 106 and Historic Preservation*
 - How Section 106 and preservation of Mauna Kea coincides with this Plan.
 - Why Mauna Kea is mentioned as a historical preservation site.
- *Implementation of the Strategic Framework*
 - How the Strategic Framework can be put into action.

What is Missing? Why?

- *Background Information*
 - Language of conservation and the conservation district.
 - Naming errors and mistakes done in the past in order to avoid repeating any past mistakes.
 - Impact to visitors and residents to Hawai'i.
 - Where the military belongs in the Strategic Framework.
 - Understanding who is represented in the Strategic Framework.
- *Guiding Principles*
 - Identifying if there are guiding principles that take priority over others.
 - Guiding Principle #2:
 - Defining what is regulatory oversight and what is governance.

- Guiding Principle #5:
 - Conservation and other responsible land-based activities are missing.
 - Preservation and protection are missing versus looking only at restoration.
 - A restoration approach rather than the existing reactive approach.
- *Funding Considerations*
 - An economic model to support goals in the Framework.
 - Fee structures for use.
 - The economic model to support stewardship and conservation goals of the draft such as commercial operations, concessions, and rents.
- *Vision Statement*
 - Adding a vision statement and determining if the drafting of such will be part of this process.
 - A vision statement might be tied into the mission statement to identify work being done and the direction.
 - Vision statement example for the Strategic Framework: To ensure a mutually beneficial balance is always maintained for Mauna Kea and the people of Hawai‘i.
- *Access and Use*
 - Organizing use and access so it is equal.
 - Consideration of access and use for various groups.
 - Monitoring public access and safety.
- *Broadening Input*
 - Using social media to gather a larger audience for feedback.
 - Expand outreach to schools to gather mana‘o and encourage youth to create protocols, reaching multiple generations beyond the ones who attend the meetings.
 - Whether there is opportunity for periodic input to the MKSOA.
 - Opportunities for future community dialogue and how it will take place.
- *Types of Astronomy*
 - Including all types of astronomy which includes education, restoration, and conservation.
- *Actions and Next Steps*
 - Timelines and timeframes.
 - Milestones.
 - Accountability.
 - Need some sort of interpretation to guide future action.
 - Education and the methods for education.
 - Measurements of actions.

Questions and Answers -- below are synthesized versions of questions submitted and answered in-person at Kahilu Town Hall. The meeting recording is available for public viewing [here](#).

- ***Q: What is the status of the previous Mauna Kea authority group and their Management Plan?***
 - MKSOA Executive Director John De Fries: The MKSOA became effective on July 1, 2023, for 60 months. MKSOA is currently in month 22 of 60. The MKSOA Board and Staff and Center for Maunakea Stewardship are obligated to operate within the existing Comprehensive Management Plan, existing Master Plan, and current administrative rules until MKSOA has completed their Plan.
 - The MKSOA operates using the existing planning framework adopted by the University of Hawai‘i. This will remain until MKSOA’s Plan becomes effective.

- The two groups have agreements on activities and projects that have minor operational impacts. This may include erosion control, traffic accidents, and addressing damages that have occurred. Any major impact projects require MKSOA to weigh in.
- ***Q: What is the most impactful accomplishment of the MKSOA since it was put together?***
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: Legislation creating a platform for people of various backgrounds and viewpoints to gather, talk story, and work together to move forward has been the most impactful. Individuals can come together and speak civically in order to come to a consensus on how to move forward.
- ***Q: What is the biggest setback of the MKSOA since it was put together?***
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: The State's Sunshine Law is a challenge as it limits communication between MKSOA members to one-on-one discussions that cannot be discussed with other members. Discussions including more than one MKSOA member at a time require a public meeting notice, which slows down the sharing of information and decision-making.
- ***Q: What are the origins of the Sunshine Law and how it is used in government agencies?***
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: The Sunshine Law has been around for years and it was created to bring transparency in decision making and problem solving. While transparency is important, it is important to solve problems in the most transparent way possible, which is the goal of the community meeting. This is the 4th community meeting, the other 3 meetings were held in Hilo. The Sunshine Law applies to all government agencies.
 - MKSOA Board Member Lanakila Mangauil: MKSOA is on a timetick and the Sunshine Law can hinder the movement of a new board. MKSOA is the first board created since the 1980's and some Sunshine Law processes also come from the 1980's. Meeting minutes and announcements need to be posted ahead of time and therefore can take multiple months to be completed.
 - MKSOA Executive Director John De Fries: While the roots of the Sunshine Law are important for transparency and public discussion it can present a constraint to discussing sensitive information tied to the Mauna. This was a challenge for MKSOA when creating the Strategic Framework. All of the information shared today has a place in the Strategic Framework.
- ***Q: Will the Authority have the ability to address permitting in conservation districts or create a special credence in the next Management Plan to ensure County and State government cannot retaliate with force in cases where communities disagree with approved permits?***
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: MKSOA is getting clarification of their power as an Authority. MKSOA believes that the legislature has given them final authority through the creation of Act 255. Others may believe that DLNR should have authority over MKSOA. MKSOA created a Bill this legislative session to get clarification on final Authority but did not receive a hearing. MKSOA will continue to push their position that as a diverse group, MKSOA should have final decisions regarding conservation and usage.
- ***Q: What came out of the 2017 OHA lawsuit against the state of Hawai'i?***
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: The 2017 lawsuit was scheduled for a hearing in July 2025. OHA's legal representation recently dropped out, and the judge has allowed OHA to find new attorney representation. OHA pursued an additional lawsuit stating MKSOA as being unconstitutional. The judge stated that OHA does not have a right to challenge authority.

- ***Q: What is Hawai‘i County’s role or responsibility in MKSOA?***
 - MKSOA Board Member Kimo Alameda: Role is as one perspective and voting member. Being voted in by the people, the role is to represent the majority of voices.
- ***Q: What are the benefits and challenges of Mauna Kea being on the National Historic Registry?***
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: The designation was filed by an organization named KAHEA. MKSOA received clarification from their lawyers regarding the federal impacts of Mauna Kea being on the registry. MKSOA was informed that the National Registry designation has no legal regulatory power over MKSOA just by designation. While Mauna Kea is respected and accepted as a treasure, it does not impact MKSOA’s authority as a group to determine appropriate regulatory and long-term decisions at Mauna Kea.
- ***Q: What is the timeline for observatory leases with the University of Hawai‘i and the urgency tied to potential decommission of telescopes?***
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: MKSOA understands the urgency as the Master Lease between DLNR and the University and each of the observatories expires in 2033. MKSOA is aware that decommissioning a telescope can take 5-7 years due to the regulatory processes. MKSOA is aware from the Observatory standpoint that waiting for a decision until 2033 is not helpful as the Observatory must continue to secure additional grants and funding.
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: MKSOA is working to identify the carrying capacity of the Mauna as it relates to astronomy and the impacts of telescope decommissioning and the remainder telescope leases. MKSOA cannot give a definitive timeline at this time.
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: Regarding State policies tied to astronomy, MKSOA used the exact statute language determined by legislation Act 255 as they must abide by state policy and cannot override the State language that names the support of astronomy by state policy.
- ***Q: What has the reaction been from the University given MKSOA is the first board to be established since the 1980’s?***
 - MKSOA Chair John Komeiji: MKSOA works collaboratively with the University of Hawai‘i system and are moving towards a positive path with the new University President with whom they have met three times. The President has pledged personal support to ensure MKSOA is successful and has asked her staff to assist MKSOA. MKSOA is optimistic about their relationship with the University moving forward.

Additional Comments and Questions -- submitted in-person or through MKSOA email. Please see Appendix B for testimonies submitted online.

- ***Update Core Value Numbers in Strategic Framework Document*** -- as it skips #5 in the order.
- ***Appreciation for Meeting*** -- specifically for the breakout sessions, Q&A session and the sharing of the core values.
- ***Need More Time for Discussion*** -- as these were important questions being asked during the breakouts. Others requested a weekend symposium with attendance from the MKSOA Board and Staff and community to review the Strategic Framework draft in depth.
- ***Transportation Request*** -- a request was made for transportation for those who may live too far or cannot attend in-person otherwise.

- ***Request to Discuss Potential Geothermal Development*** -- a question was asked online if the proposed geothermal development on Mauna Kea was on the agenda to discuss. If not, a request was made to have it added to the MKSOA monthly meetings.
- ***Formatting and Content Suggestions***
 - ***Acknowledgment of Law First*** -- in the beginning of the document, adding an acknowledgement of the law and its importance. An example provided:
 - The Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) was created under Act 255, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2022. This landmark legislation reflects a shift to a new governance model that fosters a mutual stewardship paradigm in which ecology, the environment, natural resources, cultural practices, education, and science are in balance and synergy. (Reference: Act 255, p. 2, lines 13-14 and 17-19).
 - Mauna Kea serves as an important cultural and genealogical site to the people of Hawai‘i, particularly to Native Hawaiians. The summit region of Mauna Kea is a spiritual and special place of significance, home to cultural landscapes, fragile habitats, and historical and archaeological artifacts. Due to its topographical prominence, Mauna Kea is also a highly valued site for astronomical study, which produces many significant discoveries that contribute to humanity's understanding of the universe. The Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority Strategic Framework sets the course for a shared future guided by mutual respect, meaningful collaboration, and thoughtful governance. (Reference: Act 255, p. 1, lines 11-18 & p. 2, line 1).
 - ***Introduction of Strategic Framework*** -- at the end of the opening section. An example provided:
 - The Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority Strategic Framework sets the course for a shared future guided by mutual respect, meaningful collaboration, and thoughtful governance.
 - ***Shortening and Rewording Mission Statement*** -- an example provided:
 - To steward, oversee, and protect Mauna Kea for future generations. (Reference: Act 255, p. 2, lines 15-16.)
 - ***Adding a Vision Statement*** -- an example provided:
 - To ensure a mutually beneficial balance is always maintained for Mauna Kea and the people of Hawai‘i. (Reference: Act 255, p. 3, lines 3-5).
 - ***Creating a Values Section*** -- with the existing list of Mauna Aloha, ‘Ōpu Kūpuna, Holomua ‘Oi Kelakela, ‘Ohana, and Kuleana.
 - ***Moving Kānāwai Section Out Of Values Section*** -- and add it as the only content in the “Guiding Principles” section. Alternatively, Kānāwai may be its own standalone section.
 - ***Rework Existing Content in Guiding Principles*** -- and rename to Strategic Imperatives with the 6 guiding principles.
 - ***Add a Conclusion*** -- to close the document with an inspirational conclusion.

Closing Remarks and Next Steps (Mahina Paishon, John Komeiji)

- Appreciation for attending and participating in a new process at a community meeting.

7:10PM Closing Protocol (Lanakila Mangauil)

Appendices

Appendix A: Post-it Note Questions

Question 1: What Is Not Understandable? Why?

- Guiding Principles #4 Is support of astronomy the policy of the state? How? What? Unclear
- Guiding Principle #4 The support of astronomy should be broadened – not limited to just astronomy tech
- Guiding Principle #4 Need more clarity on whose astronomy?
- What is permitted activity for Native Hawaiians? Who determines?
- Edict of emergency cycles unclear
- Monitoring public access + safety
- Hawaiian culture not understood by all
- Where's the balance between Hawaiian cultural practice and recreation?
- Education / Stories of Core Values
 - Each core value has a guiding story that connects it to the Mauna
 - These stories are not understood or widely known
 - Include 'ōlelo no'ēau, cultural context, ancestral knowledge, generational teachings, etc.
- Prompt 1: Core Value Stories
 - Accountable to Mauna as family
 - Translation to community
 - Kuleana: foundation → responsibility
 - Preservation ('ohana)
- Question / Concern: Are the objectives in here or are they coming later?
- Kānāwai concept → behavior + operation
- How will the dialogue with the public happen?
- What takes priority of the guiding principles?
- What is the difference between Aloha 'Āina vs. Aloha Aina?
- The wording of the mission/purpose statement is directly worded to guiding principle #4 support of astronomy
- How to bring life to the kānāwai without the video?
- Better understanding of the names of the core values (vague descriptions)
- Mission: Not understandable
- Clarification about regulatory oversight
- Kua'ā kanawai & kai'okia kanawai → deeper/more language (maybe written example)?
- Short story of core values used in:
 - 'Ōpū kūpuna -- lived in Kohala and Niulii to care for purposely of our elders
 - Holomua'oi kelakela -- examples of excellence from father
 - Challenge in my own community to steward industry differently
 - Kuleana -- taking on challenges to be a community leader as his kuleana

Question 2: What Is Missing?

- Land Use Control

- Where is the economic model to support the stewardship + conservation goals in this draft? I.e. commercial operators, concessions? Rents?
- How do we organize the use + access so that it is “equal”?
- Schedule?
 - Milestones?
 - Periodic inputs + interaction?
- What is the funding?
 - For authority?
 - Fee structure use?
- Consideration of access + use for various groups
- Need to know what was done wrong in the past so we don’t repeat past mistakes
- Where’s the military in the plan?
- Guiding Principle #6 Education in all aspect not just astronomy
 - Restoration, conservation, agency
- Kānāwai... provide the imagery of each kanawai for understanding
- Provide the meaning of each kānāwai = Understanding
- Missing Vision Statement
 - What is the purpose of the plan?
 - Clarity, leadership, and oversight
- Core Value #5 is missing
- Method of education is missing
- Revising #6 to include future (next generations) as well as visitors + new residents
 - Guiding Principles #6
- Lokahi is missing
- Time to digest → reflect → repost
- Younger generation involvement (school, social media)
- Prompt 3: How we measure?
 - Measurements of actions
 - Need summary
 - Interpretation
 - Guide future actions
- 6: Beyond state of Hawai‘i →engage world community
- Value 4: ‘Āina first → crosswalk: kānāwai into guiding principles
- Guiding Principle #5 Restoration include conservation, and other responsible land based activities
- Guiding Principle #5
 - Can we include preservation and protection instead of just restoration?
 - “Proactive vs. reactive”
- Not enough context
 - “How is it a unique culture place? Make it a BIG!!”
- Who do the core values apply to?
- How do we take this plan and put it into action?
- Section on education + outreach
- Engage various groups (students, residents, social media)
- Include language about conservation

- Section 106 NHPAct (106 consultation)
 - Maunakea has nat'l Historic Preservation because the Mauna is sacred wahi pana...not because of astronomy
- See... Mgmt. Plan -- time to process
- Missing a vision statement
- Revisit mission -- “fostering” doesn't go far enough.
- Mission -- Where is the restoration component?
- Mission too general and not detailed or strong enough

Appendix B: Submitted Testimony



May 7, 2025

Re: Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority Strategic Framework – April 17, 2025 Draft

Aloha MKSOA,

Founded in 1968, the Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our community through a strong, sustainable economy on Hawai'i Island. Representing 460 member businesses and organizations, our mission is to provide leadership and advocacy for a successful business environment in West Hawai'i.

The Kona-Kohala Chamber supports culture, science, education, and environmental stewardship on Maunakea. We recognize the astronomy industry on Maunakea as a significant contributor to Hawai'i Island through advancements in scientific discovery, global leadership, educational outreach, workforce pipelines, job creation, and overall economic impact. We advocate for successful management, embracing a concept of sharing Maunakea for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to participate in the MKSOA Community Talk Story on April 17, 2025, in Waimea, Hawai'i Island, where diverse perspectives were shared through respectful dialogue. It was a privilege to listen, learn, and contribute alongside community members, cultural practitioners, scientists, educators, and local leaders. This exchange of ideas is essential to building trust and deepening understanding, ensuring that Maunakea's stewardship reflects the community's values and voices.

Participants at the meeting were introduced to a draft of the Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority Strategic Framework. It's obvious the authors approached this work with care and intention. The input below is offered humbly, with the understanding that some ideas may or may not align with the vision for the final draft.

- The cover's image, font, and format are excellent.
- In the opening section, would it be possible to acknowledge the law first?
 - *Example:* The Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) was established under Act 255, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022. This landmark legislation marks a shift to a new governance structure that fosters a mutual stewardship paradigm, where ecology, the environment, natural resources, cultural practices, education, and science are in balance and synergy. (*Reference: Act 255, p. 2, lines 13-14 and 17-19*)
- Then add the importance in this opening section.
 - *Example:* Mauna Kea serves as an important cultural and genealogical site to the people of Hawai'i, particularly to Native Hawaiians. The summit region of Mauna Kea is a spiritual and special place of significance, home to cultural landscapes, fragile habitats, and historical and archaeological artifacts. Due to its topographical prominence, Mauna Kea is also a highly valued site for astronomical study, which produces many significant discoveries that contribute to humanity's understanding of the universe. (*Reference: Act 255, p. 1, lines 11-18 & p. 2, line 1*).

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- And, possibly ending the opening section with a statement about the document:
 - *Example:* The Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority Strategic Framework sets the course for a shared future guided by mutual respect, meaningful collaboration, and thoughtful governance.
- Would it be possible to rework and shorten the Mission statement and add a Vision statement? Note: The content of the “Mission and Purpose” statement in the draft was moved to the first paragraph of the opening section example.
 - *Shortened Mission Statement Example:* To steward, oversee, and protect Mauna Kea for future generations. (*Reference: Act 255, p. 2, lines 15-16.*)
 - *Vision Statement Example:* To ensure a mutually beneficial balance is always maintained for Mauna Kea and the people of Hawai‘i. (*Reference: Act 255, p. 3, lines 3-5.*)
- Would it be possible to create a “Values” section with this existing list?
 1. Mauna Aloha
 2. ‘Ōpu Kūpuna
 3. Holomua ‘Oī Kelakela
 4. ‘Ohana
 5. Kuleana
- Would it be appropriate to pull the Kānāwai from the draft’s “Core Values” section and make it the only content in the “Guiding Principles” section? Or, if appropriate, have the Kānāwai be its own section with that as its title.
- Would it be possible to rename the existing content in the “Guiding Principles” section to “Strategic Imperatives”?
 1. Significance of the Mountain
 2. Land Use Controls
 3. Protection of Native Hawaiian Rights
 4. Support of Astronomy
 5. Restoration of Natural Resources
 6. Commitment to Community Engagement
- It would be nice to have a brief inspirational conclusion for the document.

Mahalo for this opportunity to share input about the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority Strategic Framework draft from April 17, 2025. We are deeply grateful to MKSOA and all who have contributed their time and expertise to this effort.

Sincerely,



Wendy J. Laros, President and CEO
Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce

From: MARGARET MASUNAGA <mkmasunaga@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 19, 2025 4:37 PM
To: Maunakea Authority Testimony <mka.testimony@hawaii.gov>
Cc: cmshilo@hawaii.edu <cmshilo@hawaii.edu>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments Re: Community talk story on 4/17/25 Kahilu Town Hall

I logged in for the livestream on 4/17/25 from about 5:20 p.m. to the end. I live in Captain Cook, HI. I appreciate your sharing the core values online. I thought the question & answer segment was helpful and the answers from Chair John Komeiji, Mayor Kimo Alameda, and executive director John De Fries were understandable & effective. I would like to be notified of any Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority information and meetings.

Mahalo nui loa,
Margaret Masunaga
PO Box 345
Kealahou, HI 96750

From: Melina Keawe <danakeawe@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 18, 2025 6:17 AM
To: DLNR.MK.Community <mksoa.community@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Q&A MKSOA Community Talk Story, Waimea 4/17/25

Aroha mai tātou MKSOA,

Tonight's Community Talk Story was maita'i.
Mahalo for All your good works.

Q's: I loved the community break out sessions.
The only thing was i felt rushed to discuss such important questions and needed more time.
Can there be a free weekend symposium where we can really take our time to go through MKSOA Strategic Framework Draft?
With a noon break for lunch/music/cultural exhibits?
With all the parties involved with MKSOA?
And perhaps offer transportation & accommodations for the public too from other districts/islands who live below the poverty level or cannot afford to fly over from other islands or who do not have transportation etc?

Q: Is the proposed Geothermal Development on Mauna Kea in your agenda to discuss? If not, can you put this in agenda for MKSOA monthly meetings?

me te Aloha 'Āina,
Dana Keawe