

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



MKSOA BOARD

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*BEN KUDO

LANAKILA MANGAUIL
RICH MATSUDA
NOE NOEWONG-WILSON

**ex-officio*

MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

600 'Imiloa Place, Hilo, HI 96720

Telephone (808) 272-0259

Website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/maunakea-authority/>

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 9, 2025

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://youtube.com/live/KJU50R3Jndk>

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

PRESENT, Zoom: Chairperson John Komeiji; First Vice-Chair Noe Noe Wong-Wilson; Second Vice-Chair Rich Matsuda; Paul Horner; Bonnie Irwin; Ben Kudo; Neil Hannahs; Lanakila Mangaui; Kimo Alameda; Kalehua Krug; Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole; Pomai Bertelmann;

EXCUSED Members: None.

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

GUESTS: Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS); Rodrigo Romo, MKSS General Manager (CMS); William Brilhante, Managing Director (County of Hawai'i); Mike Miyahira, Regent (UH BOR)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Opening remarks by Executive Director (ED) De Fries, comments of appreciation by Members Hannahs, Mangaui and Bertelmann

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No Testimony.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 12, 2024 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

MOTION: Motion by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson to approve meeting minutes from December 12, 2024 10:00 am Regular Board Meeting. Second by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda.

ACTION: The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. CHAIR REPORT– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items

A. Report by Chair Komeiji

1. State Legislative Update: Three Bill initiatives- Bill 1 is essentially clarifications addressing inadvertent omissions in Act 255, i.e. whether MKSOA would have final authority on Conservation District Use Permits (CDUPs). An opposing bill exists to have DLNR be final authority. Bill 2 is clarification of the scope of MKSOA involvement relative to UH's current roles as end user, representative of the observatories and lessor/regulator. MKSOA should be regulatory authority, not be expected to assume responsibility as both end user nor to represent the observatories. 3rd Bill is for a limited exemption to Sunshine Law- to be able to meet, but not soliciting votes or making decisions. Exemption only for duration of transition period. Measure numbers to be assigned pending filing of bills.

Comments by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Members Hannahs and Irwin regarding 3rd bill [Sunshine Law].

Clarifying questions by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda, Regent Miyahira and Member Irwin, comment by Member Kudo regarding 2nd bill [CDUPs].

V. GOVERNANCE– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items

A. MKSOA Governance Structure

1. Standing Subcommittees: Governance structure discussion to be deferred pending development of aspirational statement, and establishment of principles, mission, vision at upcoming Board Retreat.

Member Irwin left the meeting at 10:52 am.

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

A. Report of Executive Director De Fries:

1. Update on Interim and Permanent Offices- Project Director (PD) Stormont
 - a. Interim Office (Taken out of order): 32 Kino'ole St. location no longer available; Still searching relative to future staffing and space needs; Small office space at Hale Pōhaku being rented from CMS.
 - b. Permanent Office (Taken out of order): 417 E. Kawili receipt of lease document from DLNR Land Division pending.

2. Status of Management Plan Request for Proposals (RFP)- Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami, Evaluation Committee Chair: Pursuant to State Procurement Office (SPO) Rules, RFP solicitation has been canceled due to inadequate specifications. Direction of management planning process to be revisited.

Comment by ED De Fries on potential development of Strategic Plan in-house to guide management planning process due to time constraints.

Public Comment by Momi Nu‘uhiwa- Need for community education on the limitations imposed by Sunshine Law.

3. Update on proposed Board Retreat Scheduled for January 25, Hale ‘Ōlelo, [staff] to contact O‘ahu-based Board members regarding travel arrangements. Objective of Board Retreat is to establish aspirational statement, mission, vision etc.

B. Long Term Transition Working Group (TWG)- Member Kudo

1. TWG December Meeting Update- General Leases, Easements, Subleases (01:07:34): Last meeting covered documents indicated in this Agenda item heading. Next meeting January 17, moving onto Observatory Operating Agreements, hoping to finish analysis in order to create master transition plan w/ recommendations for asset transfer to be submitted to MKSOA, Board of Land and Natural Resources, UH Board of Regents.

Member Mangauil left the meeting at 11:23 am.

- C. State Legislature MKSOA Annual Report: Report is available on MKSOA website, contents include review of the work of the last year including Projects & Timelines PIG and Transition Working Group.

Comment by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson regarding observatory viewing time.

Public comment by Momi Nu‘uhiwa- Question regarding observatory viewing time.

Clarification by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda based on Keck’s observing time, viewing time also referenced on Page 22 of MKSOA Annual Report.

VII. FINANCE– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items

- A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami: Details contained within attached document; \$14 million is annual recurring amount requested for next biennium budget.

II. CENTER FOR MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP (CMS)– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items

- A. Operational Update- CMS, Mauna Kea Shared Services General Manager Romo
1. Halepōhaku Solar Water Heater: Considered Type A project per

Conservation District Rules. Contract purchases solar-generated power and power from Hawaii Electric Light Company (HELCO) to supplement. Dormitory water currently electric-heated due to prior diesel heater failure. Photovoltaic system energy costs- \$0.19/hour, HELCO \$0.46/hour, project to pay for itself in savings in 3-5 yrs. Hot water storage tank to be kept on existing concrete pad, no ground disturbance, cost estimated at \$30,000-\$50,000, solar will supplement but not replace electric water heater.

B. Joint Management Committee (JMC)- CMS, MKSOA

1. Report by CMS ED Chun and MKSOA ED De Fries: Holiday season spike in vehicles going up during sunset. Since Thanksgiving, traffic volume much higher than in the past, unsure exact cause. Approximately 90-100 cars at summit. PD Stormont to be part of mitigation measures discussion. Outreach and engagement to follow, most viable alternative is to limit number of vehicles at sunset hours.

Clarifying question by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson regarding number and sufficiency of current rest facilities.

Clarification by MKSS GM Romo- Total of 7 portables, cleaned weekly, sometimes they get pretty full.

Comments by Member Hannahs, CMS ED Chun, MKSOA ED De Fries on Hā'ena as an example of visitor management.

Public Comment by Momi Nu'uhiwa on possible waste solutions, dust remediation education for visitors, advisory working group of Hawaiian cultural practitioners.

Public Comment by Leticia Morales- question on visitor limits.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- FEBRUARY 13, 2025, 10:00AM-12:00PM, DOFAW-HILO, 19 E. KAWILI ST


Next Community Talk-Story to take place possibly in March.

X. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda moved to adjourn. 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson Second.

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

Approved 2/13/25 
MKSOA Board Secretary