



MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 13, 2025

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://youtube.com/live/mjJgG0biKZU>

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; Kimo Alameda; Kalehua Krug; Pomai Bertelmann;

EXCUSED Members: Lanakila Mangaui; Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole;

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) Craig Iha, Deputy Attorney General (AG)

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); Grant Hill, Technical Operations Manager (Keck Observatory)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Opening remarks by Member Hannahs. Introduction of Deputy AG Craig Iha.

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 January 9, 2025 10:00 am Regular Board Meeting. Second by Member Horner.

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. No report, deferred to ED De Fries

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

- A. Board Retreat Date: Sunday, March 23, 2025- Honolulu; details to follow: Meeting to be called by Governor. Location TBD

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- Work in progress, no further update.: Two site inspections to take place today following Board Meeting.
 2. Status of Management Plan Request for Proposals (RFP)- Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami, Evaluation Committee Chair: RFP being rewritten to consider the need for Hawai'i Island experience as a qualification. Discussions to take place with RCUH. Need to advertise RFP more aggressively in 2nd round.
 3. Senate WTL Committee Information Briefing 2/5/25 Update: Briefing cancelled, has not been rescheduled yet.
 4. UH Board of Regents Meeting 2/6/25 Update: Matter of CDUPs is an issue that needs to be resolved between UH and MKSOA.
- B. Long Term Transition Working Group (TWG)- Member Kudo:
1. TWG January Meeting Update- Observatory Operating Agreements: Meeting next Friday, OSDAs are very complex and interplay with other documents (ex: subleases), CMS ED Chun to provide “economic impact” of OSDAs, meaning how funding moves back and forth between MKOs and UH-CMS

Question from Member Alameda regarding possibility of presentation being given to full Board.

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

- A. HB143/ SB769- RELATING TO MAUNA KEA; Proposes to amend the CDUP application, approval and oversight responsibilities of the BLNR, MKSOA, and lessees and provides that certain CDUPs in effect as of

7/1/2028 to which UH is a permittee or other named party not be transferred to MKSOA: PD Stormont: Clarifies Act 255 re- CDUPs, hearing has not be scheduled yet, HB 143 referred to WAL, SB769 referred to WTL;

Comment by Chair Komeiji expressing concern that hearings have not been scheduled and that decking deadline approaching quickly

- B. HB144/ SB770- RELATING TO MAUNA KEA; Authorizes 2 or more members of MKSOA to meet during the transition period regarding board business, provided no commitment to vote is made or sought and no decision-making action is taken: PD Stormont- hearing last Thursday, feedback from Committee was not to set precedent of exemptions to Sunshine. Concerns were about consequences, not necessarily MKSOA's intent. MKSOA voluntarily withdrew bill, deferred indefinitely.

Comments by Board members and ED De Fries regarding transparency, public interest and the need to get the work done in a manner that earns trust.

- C. SB6- RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT; Clarifies that BLNR's authority supersedes MKSOA for all lands designated in the state conservation district and that natural resource management enforcement and emergency response over Mauna Kea lands remain with the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement of the DLNR: PD Stormont- Bill to go before Senate Water and Land (WTL) and Hawaiian Affairs (HWN) Committees jointly, no existing House companion bill and no hearing currently scheduled.

Comments by Board members and ED De Fries regarding previous year's version of the bill and Executive Sessions generally.

- D. SB197- RELATING TO PUBLIC NOTICE; Establishes enhanced public notice requirements for changes in land use by the DHHL, DLNR, or UH and boundary changes by the LUC. Requires approval of the project by the community through a referendum of nearby adult residents except for projects within Mauna Kea science reserve, which require a referendum by all adult residents of the county the Mauna Kea science reserve is located. Appropriates money: PD Stormont- "Triple referred" but not scheduled.

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

- A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami- Financial report including appropriations, budget, expenditures, balance: Details contained within attached document; Used recurring process of appropriations, lapsed funds return to Gen Fund. Request for same \$14m per year of next biennium.

Comments by Board members about using available resources on making information more digestible for the community

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

- A. Operational Update- Report by CMS ED Chun: Verbal update- Sunset traffic volume issue, working group created to address issue, traffic management measures to be implemented, ex: staging rangers to direct traffic to designated parking areas to be attempted prior to resorting to setting limits; Federal actions affecting UH- CMS budget is ok for now, unsure of long term impacts, Federally funded observatories to be analyzing potential impacts; CMS is a research support organization that has land management responsibilities; RTRFs account for 20% of operating budget, ½ of MKOs received federal funding, and pay for 82% of operations, impact TBD; MKO Directors meeting next Friday. Potential budget scenarios being formulated

Questions and comments from Board members regarding federal

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

1. Report by CMS ED Chun and MKSOA ED De Fries:

- a. INFORMATIONAL- Keck Temporary Outdoor Storage Project, Type A: Storage for longer than 30 days is considered a Land Use and requires OCCL approval. KKM had concerns about public access, signage and waste management and viewplanes for cultural practitioners more broadly

Questions and comments regarding management of portable toilets

- b. INFORMATIONAL Subaru Sulphur Dioxide and Dust Sensor Project, Type A: Seeking Concurrence letter from OCCL

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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


Next Community Talk-Story to take place possibly in March, planning needs to be discussed

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION: The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 am.

Approved 3/13/25 
MKSOA Board Secretary