



## MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

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### PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

**Thursday, April 10, 2025**

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v78T1U8cPxg>

### AUTHORITY MEMBERS

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

**EXCUSED Members:** Kalehua Krug;

**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); Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General (AG)

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

### I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Opening remarks by Member Irwin.

### 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 (1st VC) Wong-Wilson to approve meeting minutes from March 13, 2025 10:00 am Regular

Board Meeting. Second by 2nd Vice-Chair (2nd VC) Matsuda.

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

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

- A. Legislative Update: Session ending, \$14M budget appears to remain intact. Four (4) members' terms up, all being considered for reappointment with required list of other names per Act 255, SLH 2022.

Question by Member Alameda

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

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

- A. Report of Executive Director (ED) De Fries:
1. Update on Interim and Permanent Offices
    - a. Interim Office- Work in progress: Approx mid-June move into interim office 688 Kinoole, mahalo to 'Imiloa Executive Director Ka'iu Kimura. Still looking into longer-term space.
  2. Status of Management Plan Request for Proposals (RFP)- RFP to be released April 18, followed by pre-proposal conference. Mahalo to Board members for their assistance in the process
  3. Next Community Talk Story Session in Waimea in April, Date April 17, 2025, 5:00pm-7:00pm, Kahilu Town Hall. Working with Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED), Mahina Paishon to facilitate.
- B. Long Term Transition Working Group (TWG)- Member Kudo:
1. TWG March Meeting- Canceled, April Meeting April 22, 2025: Next tranche of documents to be covered include service & vendor contracts for operations on the mountain, document review expected to be completed by end of the year.

**VII. PROJECTS & MILESTONES INVESTIGATIVE GROUP REPORT– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items**

- A. Introduction of MKSOA Strategic Framework Draft: Report by Member Hannahs- document is akin to a navigational guide but needs input and buy-in from whole Board. Includes strategic framework and regulatory framework. Discussion to take place at May Board meeting, community input sought at Waimea talk-story. Details contained within attached document available at:  
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Item-VII.A-MKSOA-Strategic-Framework-v5.pdf>

Comment by ED De Fries: Strategic Framework is to guide development of Management Plan and will be presented to RFP offerors.

- B. Dissolution of Projects and Milestones Permitted Interaction Group (PIG):  
Dissolution to follow adoption of a version of Strategic Framework pending Board and community input

**VIII. FORMATION OF PERFORMANCE AND OVERSIGHT PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP (PIG)– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items**

- A. Purpose: To Be Responsible for Guidance, Risk Management, Oversight, and Execution Against Milestones: Members- 1<sup>st</sup> VC Wong-Wilson, 2<sup>nd</sup> VC Matsuda, Member Hannahs, Chair Komeiji

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

- A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami- March Financial report including appropriations, budget, expenditures, balance: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Item-IX-MKSOA-April-2025-Financial-Report.pdf>

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

- A. Operational Update- Report by CMS ED Chun: Underground Storage Tank Environmental Assessment (UST EA) Update: Consultants still compiling background info, community input to be sought following that of regulatory bodies next month.
- B. Joint Management Committee (JMC)- CMS, MKSOA
  - 1. Commercial Tour Operator (CTO) Fees: Currently operating under permits from DLNR on a month-to-month basis, fees established in 2007. Current permits allow UH to increase fees with 30 days notice. CTOs supportive of proposed fee increase from \$6 to \$20 per passenger and from \$1200/mo to \$2000/mo. Only until end of transition period, CTOs interested in MKSOA's future intent.

Comment by ED De Fries on meeting with CTOs. Questions by Member Hannahs.

**XI. FUNDING OF OBSERVATORY OPERATIONS)– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items**

- A. Rich Matsuda, Director, WM Keck Observatory and MKSOA Board Member: Overview-level details, the prompting of this presentation highlights need for formation of advisory groups, incl. astronomy advisory group. Mutual Stewardship Paradigm; Observatories' Objective; How Observatories are Funded; Observatory Access and Observing Time; Center for Maunakea Stewardship; How Things are Changing with transition to MKSOA; Decommissioning; MKOs Relationship with Community; Future Vision;  
Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Item-XI.A-MKSOA-Observatory-Funding-Presentation.pdf>

Member Irwin left the meeting at 11:11 am.

Questions and comments by Board members

**XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No Executive Session.

**XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- MAY 8, 2025, 10:00AM-12:00PM, DOFAW-HILO, 19 E. KAWILI ST
- B. NEXT COMMUNITY TALK STORY SESSION IN WAIMEA APRIL 17, 2025, 5:00PM-7:00PM, KAHILU TOWN HALL, 67-1182 LINDSEY RD

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

1st VC Wong-Wilson Motion to Adjourn, 2nd VC Matsuda  
Second.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

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