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*\*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, July 10, 2025

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://youtube.com/live/iScas2Q41FI>

#### AUTHORITY MEMBERS

**PRESENT, Zoom:** Chairperson John Komeiji; Second Vice-Chair Rich Matsuda; Neil Hannahs; Ben Kudo; First Vice-Chair Noe Noe Wong-Wilson;

**EXCUSED Members:** Kalehua Krug; Pomai Bertelmann; Paul Horner; Bonnie Irwin; Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole ; Lanakila Mangauil; Kimo Alameda

**MKSOA SUPPORT:** Pua'ena Ahn, Executive Assistant, Board Secretary (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); Nahua Guilloz, Director of Stewardship Programs (CMS); Joy Yoshina, Program and Project Compliance Officer (CMS);

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

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:32 am and gave opening remarks.

Members Kanaka'ole and Bertelmann left the meeting at 10:34 am.

Member Horner left the meeting at 10:35 am, quorum lost.

Meeting to continue on an informational basis, no Board Actions to be taken.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

**III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Approval of Minutes tabled until next meeting due to lack of quorum.

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

A. Federal Funding Cuts: May potentially affect CMS and therefore MKSOA operations, Federal budget still not set, but does not provide funding for TMT. UH currently contributes \$1.5 million, TMT contributes \$1.4 million, Maunakea Observatories contribute \$3.3 million, unsure whether MKSOA budget appropriations can be used to fund potential operational shortfalls. UH System overall will be under financial stress. Lobbying efforts by Sen Schatz, IFA and MKOs to restore funding. MKSOA should stay neutral but needs to be able to operate.

Question by Member Hannahs

**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 by Executive Director (ED) De Fries:

1. Interim Office Update - Project Director Stormont: Lease has been sent from DAGS to AG, AG has sent comments back, final lease under development.
2. Community Talk Story Session Series Schedule - Project Director Stormont: Nā'ālehu, Kealakehe, Laupāhoehoe, Hāmakua, Hilo sessions planned. HACBED handling logistics, same format as 4/17/25 Waimea meeting; Community Meetings re- Management Plan to begin late Fall.

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

1. TWG June Meeting: Tranche 3 complete, starting on Tranche 4. Tranche 4 review to be completed by September. AG opinion pending regarding existing Conservation District Use Applications. Work of TWG to be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2026 at the latest.

C. Update on Consulting Services to Develop a Management Plan for the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority - Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami: Minor issues with contract document, terms and conditions being worked out, additional language around insurance requirements also being worked in.

D. Update on Timeline and Website Development: Timeline is a high-level overview. Includes Key decisions, Management Plan, Events, Operations, Pre-Integration, Integration. Note that this is timeline moving forward, not from the beginning of transition. Details contained at: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Item-VI-D.pdf>. New website has been developed in-house, needs review from Board, staff and discussion with ETS, to include higher level of functionality.

Comment by Member Hannahs

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

- A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami- June Financial report including appropriations, budget, expenditures, balance: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Item-VII-MKSOA-June-2025-Meeting-Financial-Report.pdf>
- B. Act 250 SLH 2025 Approved State Budget: Full \$14m, 13 total staff positions to be filled. Asked B&F for more advanced notice

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

**ITEMS TAKEN OUT OF ORDER**

- A. Operational Update- Report by CMS ED Chun:
  - 1. Information Only – Overview of Observatory Decommissioning Process: Original Decommissioning process created by OMKM includes flow chart, several levels of permitting requirements from County, DLNR, Department of Health. Basic steps include Notice of Intent, Site Demolition and Restoration Plan, Removal Plan, Ch 342, Conservation District Use Permit, other permitting. Generally pre-permitting takes about 2-3 years before work can start. Decommissioning itself, followed by 3 years of Site Monitoring. MKSOA will need to review and approve each step of process. Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Item-VIII-A-1.pdf>.

Questions by Member Hannahs, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson

- 2. Action Required – IRTF Geophysical Testing Project: Pu‘u Hau‘oki, erosion during Hurricane Hone, plan is to take core samples to determine best mitigation measures. Two 8-15 ft. cores to be taken. Approval needed prior to September. Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Item-VIII-A-2.pdf>

No Action Taken due to lack of quorum. Item will be taken up at next meeting.

- 3. Action Required - Debris Removal Plan: How trash is monitored and removed. Non-CMS lands include Natural Area Reserve and Forest Reserve areas. Plan has been implemented in practice while still in draft form. Construction projects have their own debris plans. This plan codifies existing practices and is compliant with UH Comprehensive Management Plan. Details contained within attached document available at

<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Item-VIII-A-3.pdf>

No Action Taken due to lack of quorum. Item will be taken up at next meeting.

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

1. Exploring Co-Funding Opportunities and/or Contracting of CMS by MKSOA: Conversation is ongoing, different models and scenarios are being discussed.

**IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- AUGUST 14, 2025, 10:00AM-12:00PM,  
DOFAW-HILO, 19 E. KAWILI ST

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 pm.

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