

MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

LEGISLATIVE FINDING AND INTENT

The summit region of Mauna Kea is a spiritual and special place of significance that is 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 study and understanding of the universe.

In the face of protests and concerns raised about the impacts upon the spiritual significance and environment of this natural resource engendered by the growing astronomy research facilities, the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) was created under Act 255, Session Laws of Hawai i 2022 to bring about a more harmonious coexistence of these and other uses atop the mountain.

MISSION AND PURPOSE

To protect Mauna Kea for future generations, by fostering a mutual stewardship paradigm in which the ecosystem of natural resources, cultural practices, education and science is in balance and synergy.

CORE VALUES

1. **Mauna Aloha** – Understanding the responsibility to reciprocate for the Mauna's value to humanity by making a long-term commitment to maintaining the integrity of Mauna Kea's spiritual significance and extraordinary environmental qualities.
2. **'Ōpū Kūpuna** – Understanding and embracing a duty and accountability to Mauna Kea and the natural environment, as well as perpetuating the Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices embedded in the landscape of the Mauna.

3. **Holomua Oi Kelakela** – Driven by creativity and innovation, constantly challenging the status quo with a commitment to stewardship of Mauna Kea that is informed by existing wisdom and traditions, as well as expanding knowledge. The Authority shall be mindful and considerate of the impacts generated by current and future needs, trends and research opportunities and shall seek ways to move forward which enhance the ability to serve as responsible stewards without jeopardizing the foundation of ‘āina aloha.
4. **Kānāwai** – Observing four laws of nature that govern our relationship to our ‘āina that are meant to ensure the health of the ‘āina so that it will continue to nurture all life forms.
 - (a) **Ho’okikī Kānāwai** – the edict of continuum, cycles that balance and regulate our environment.
 - (b) **Kua‘ā Kānāwai** – the edict of emergency, cycles replete with natural phenomena and elemental activity that forecast impending disaster.
 - (c) **Kai’okia Kānāwai** – the edict of boundaries, delineations of the divisions of earth established by lava flows, rivers, valleys, ocean, shoreline, land, sky and forest.
 - (d) **Kīho’iho’i Kānāwai** – the edict of regeneration, reflecting the resilience of land and an ability to recover from destructive actions and reestablish its natural regenerative cycles.
5. **‘Ohana** – ‘Ohana holds people in kinship and in relationship to place, recognizing the interwoven nature of different needs and desires while focusing on what may be possible together with Mauna Aloha at the center, carrying out responsibilities and possibilities over multiple generations.
6. **Kuleana** –We are accountable to the Mauna and the people of this place; striving to foster good relationships, respectful dialogue, broad engagement, mutual education and collaborative work.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1. **Significance of the Mauna** - The Mauna is a unique cultural and scientific resource within an ecologically fragile environment. Only activities reflecting the highest standards and practices should be allowed on the Mauna.
2. **Land Use Controls** - Human activity may be authorized for specific purposes, subject to regulatory oversight and restoration of the site upon conclusion of the permitted use. Land use regulations will control impacts, foster coexistence of users, minimize ground disturbance, and promote sustainable land uses and practices (e.g., energy, wastewater, potable water, gas emissions, visual intensity of use, etc.)
3. **Protection of Native Hawaiian Rights** - As set forth in the Hawai'i State Constitution, traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights, shall be supported and protected without unduly burdening individuals exercising these rights. Plans and permitted activities will appropriately incorporate indigenous management and cultural processes and values. Initiatives that increase understanding of Native Hawaiian history and cultural practices related to Mauna Kea should also be enabled.
4. **Support of Astronomy** - The support of astronomy, consistent with a mutual stewardship paradigm in which ecology, the environment, natural resources, cultural practices, education and science are in balance and synergy, is a policy of the State.
5. **Restoration of Natural Resources** - The management of human activity on the Mauna, including interactions with and restoration of natural resources, will use an ecosystem approach.
6. **Commitment to Community Engagement** - Planning and execution of programs will involve dialogue with the people of Moku o Keawe (Hawai'i Island), the public, cultural practitioners, experts of the land and natural resources, educators, and scientists. In addition, other segments of the Hawai'i Island community, as well as the citizens of the State of Hawai'i will also be included within the scope of community engagement.