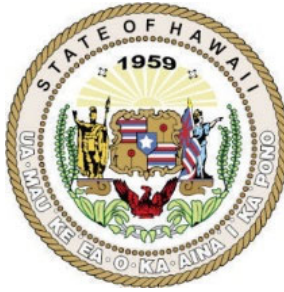


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



MKSOA BOARD

JOHN KOMEIJI  
*Chairperson*

\*KIMO ALAMEDA  
POMAI BERTELMANN  
NEIL HANNAHS  
PAUL HORNER  
\*BONNIE IRWIN  
\*RYAN KANAKA'OLE  
KALEHUA KRUG  
\*BEN KUDO

LANAKILA MANGAUIL  
RICH MATSUDA  
NOE NOE WONG-WILSON

*\*ex-officio*

## MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

688 Kino'ole Street #212, Hilo, HI 96720  
Telephone (808) 272-0259

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

### PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 14, 2025

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://youtube.com/live/XgZvf-Zngdw>

#### AUTHORITY MEMBERS

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

**EXCUSED Members:** Kimo Alameda

**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); Christopher Daggett, Consultant (MKSOA)

**GUESTS:** Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS); Mike Miyahira, Regent

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

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Opening remarks by Member Hannahs.

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

B. July 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting

Vote to approve Minutes from both meetings taken concurrently.

**MOTION:** Motion by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Second by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda

**ACTION:** Unanimous by show of hands.

Member Bertelmann joined meeting at 10:17 am.

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

- A. Executive Director Performance Appraisal PIG Report – Member Horner: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Item-IV-A.pdf>: Description of evaluation criteria, process and comments by Member Horner. Comments by Member Bertelmann.

Discussion on PIG Report to take place at following Board meeting.

**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: Office at 688 Kinoole St. #212 has been secured, no electricity or furniture,

Member Mangaul joined meeting at 10:20 am.

2. Community Talk Story Session Series:

1. Ka‘ū 8/13/25 – Nā‘ālehu Community Center: Comments from Board members present at previous night’s meeting and ED De Fries.
2. Kona 8/27/25 – West Hawai‘i Civic Center: Meeting to be held in Council Chambers
3. Hāmākua 9/3/25 – Laupāhoehoe Community PCS Cafeteria
4. Waimea 9/17/25 – Kahilu Town Hall: Date to be moved to 9/18/25, Venue location pending. Second Talk-Story in Waimea to be held because of multiple community meetings and events at the same time as first Talk-Story, limiting attendance.
5. Hilo 9/24/25 – UH Hilo, Hale ‘Ōlelo

- B. Status of Long Term Transition Working Group (LTTWG)- Member Kudo:
1. July Meeting Update: 7/18 prior meeting, Tranche 4 documents- historical & miscellaneous documents, still waiting on AG opinion on CDUAs. Next Friday's meeting will review CDUAs, Master Transfer Plan to then be drafted for submission to UHBOR and MKSOA for review, comment and approval.
- C. Update on 7/29-30/25 DLNR Director & Deputy Directors and OCCL Administrator Mauna Kea Site Visit: Member Kanaka'ole & PD Stormont- Part of large DLNR site visit to Hawai'i Island, included several Division administrators. Tsunami occurred during visit. Preparation discussions for Senate WAM meeting held at Hale Pōhaku. Need for enhanced mechanism of communication with Chair's Office due to complexity of transition.
- D. Update on 8/11-12/25 State House Delegation Mauna Kea Site Visit: PD Stormont- Attended by 10 House Representatives incl. Vice-Speaker Ichiyama, specific goals of visit revolved around facilitating understanding of transition. Visit included hike to Lake Waiau and visits to Keck and Gemini observatories. Visit went very well, possibility of legislative support to facilitate transition. Comments by Chair Komeiji, CMS ED Chun, 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda, ED De Fries.
- E. Meeting on 8/14/25 with The Chamber Hui, comprised of the Executive Committees of the Hawai'i Island Chamber of Commerce, Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawai'i and Hui 'Oihana Hawai'i Island Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce: Concerns have been raised regarding observatory lease renewal, Chair Komeiji, ED De Fries, consultant Christopher Daggett to attend.
- Comments by Members Hannahs and Mangauil, and 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson.
- F. Preparation for 8/26/25 Meeting in Hilo with State Senate WAM Committee: Previously planned site visit by Senate WAM has been canceled, to be rescheduled.
- G. Update on Consulting Services to Develop a Management Plan for the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority - Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami: To recap procurement process, 2 offers were received by credible firms, SSFM International scored higher by evaluation committee. Contract has been finalized, public announcement to be made, and kickoff meeting to take place tomorrow. Planning team to also include Edith Kanaka'ole Foundation, Konane Legal, 'Āina Archaeology and Mahina Paishon Consulting, collectively called Kua o Wākea
- Comments by Member Hannahs, Chair Komeiji, and 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson.

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

- A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami- July Financial report including appropriations, budget, expenditures, balance: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Item-VII-A.pdf>
- B. FY26-27 MSKOA Biennium Budget

**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. ACTION REQUIRED (from 7/10/25 MKSOA Board meeting)**

- a. IRTF Geophysical Testing Project (Reviewed 7/10/25): Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Item-VIII-A-1a.pdf> : IRTF facility currently experiencing erosion of pad at backside of building. Proposal is to conduct two core borings to determine substrate composition 4-6 in. wide, approx. 15 ft deep, for best mitigation. Type-B project. Original core materials will be used to refill holes. Project will not extend lifespan of facility.

CMS Staff Recommendation is to approve study. MKSOA Staff Recommendation is also to approve.

**MOTION:** 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda Motion, Member Hannahs Second

**DISCUSSION:** No Discussion.

**ACTION:** Unanimous by Show of Hands.

- b. Debris Removal Plan (Reviewed 7/10/25): Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Item-VIII-A-1b.pdf> : CMS required to have a Debris Removal Plan according to Comprehensive Management Plan, debris removal and monitoring to include lands that CMS is not responsible for, including Lake Waiau in Natural Area Reserve. Sweeps conducted both by CMS and observatory staff. Types and quantities of debris are recorded. CMS Staff Recommendation is to approve. MKSOA Staff Recommendation is to approve.

Comments by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Member Kanaka'ole and CMS ED Chun.

**MOTION:** 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson Motion, Member Bertelmann Second.

**DISCUSSION:** No further discussion

**ACTION:** Unanimous by Show of Hands.

2. INFORMATION ONLY

- a. Gemini Ladder Replacement: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Item-VIII-A-2a.pdf> : Type A project, no action required.
- b. VLBA Weather Instrument Upgrade: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Item-VIII-A-2b.pdf> : Type A project, no action required. CMS seeking Concurrence Letter from Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands.

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

1. Discussion on Cost-Sharing between CMS and MKSOA for FY26 and FY27: ED De Fries to send to Board recommendations on what cost sharing would look like based on discussion with CMS ED Chun. Approval will be sought at following meeting.

Comments by CMS ED Chun

2. UH Board of Regents Meeting 8/7/25: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Item-VIII-B2.pdf> : CMS required to provide annual report to Regents, discussion shifted to MKSOA transition per BOR Chair's request in meeting. Recommendation by Regents to form PIGs at UH Regent, MKSOA, and BLNR level to interact with each other for the purpose of presenting a united front to the Legislature.

Comments by Chair Komeiji, Member Hannahs and Regent Miyahira.

Member Irwin left the meeting at 12:02 pm.

**IX. FORMATION OF PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP (PIG) TO INVESTIGATE THE TRANSITION BETWEEN CMS AND MKSOA)– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items**

- A. PIG Chair: John Komeiji; PIG Members: Noe Noe Wong-Wilson, Rich Matsuda, Neil Hannahs: Creation of PIG for the purposes discussed in the previous agenda item.

MOTION: 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson Motion, 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda Second.

DISCUSSION: No Discussion

ACTION: Unanimous by Show of Hands.

Member Mangauil left the meeting at 12:05 pm.

**X. PROCESS AND TIMETABLE FOR OBSERVATORY SUBLEASE**

**RENEWALS– Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items**

- A. Presentation by UH Institute for Astronomy (IFA) Director Doug Simons: Details and links to videos contained in attached document at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Item-X.pdf>

Member Kudo left the meeting at 12:11 pm.

Comment from ED De Fries, questions and comments by Member Hannahs.

Member Krug left the meeting at 12:28 pm.

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, 10:00AM-12:00PM  
B. NEW MEETING VENUE- IFA LIBRARY 640 N. AOHOKU PL, HILO  
C. COMMUNITY TALK-STORY KA‘Ū 8/13/25 – 5:30PM-7:30PM NĀ‘ĀLEHU COMMUNITY CENTER  
D. COMMUNITY TALK-STORY KONA 8/27/25 – 5:00PM-7:00 PM WEST HAWAI‘I CIVIC CENTER

Comments by ED De Fries and Member Bertelmann.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm.

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