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RICH MATSUDA
NOE NOEWONG-WILSON

**ex-officio*

MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

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

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 11, 2025

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://youtube.com/live/YVXn2tLe5O4>

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 Mangauil; Pomai Bertelmann; Kimo Alameda

EXCUSED Members: None.

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); Bill Moore, Consultant (MKSOA)

GUESTS: Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Opening remarks by Member Krug.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Comments to be taken by item as agenda proceeds.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2025 REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING

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

ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

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

- A. DISCUSSION: 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>:
Recommendation of PIG to use DLNR Performance Appraisal System, and to create MKSOA's own goal metrics, as well as 360-degree interview process. Specific proposal and committee members to be presented for vote at next Authority 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: Interim office secured, waiting on furniture and internet. Continuing to look into long-term office space.
 2. Community Talk Story Session Series:
 1. Kona - West Hawai'i Civic Center 8/27/25: Mahalo to community members for their attendance and robust discussion. Input is being compiled regarding Strategic Framework Draft and will be presented in full to Authority members following completion of Waimea meeting. Suggestion was made to engage youth in the process, and meetings are scheduled to engage with Hawai'i County Youth Commission.
 2. Laupāhoehoe – Laupāhoehoe Community Public Charter School 9/3/25
 3. Hilo - UH Hilo, Hale 'Ōlelo 9/24/25
- B. Status of Long Term Transition Working Group (LTTWG)- Member Kudo:
1. August Meeting Update: Possibly one more meeting to take place before concluding, need to discuss with consultants regarding historical CDUPs and miscellaneous files remaining, if another is needed. Matter of telecommunications system has come to light and detail need to be reviewed as to whether MKSOA would want to take ownership of this system. Upon completion of review, drafting of master (asset)

transfer plan will begin, subject to approval by UHBOR and MKSOA. AG opinion regarding transferability of certain CDUAs pending.

Question by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda, Comments by Member Hannahs

- C. Update on Consulting Services to Develop a Management Plan for the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority – Consultants Bill Moore and Christopher Daggett: Collective planning team Kua o Wākea under SSFM includes Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation, DTL, and others. Met this week with planning team to review work plan, timeframe, communication. Management plan set to be complete by the end of 2026. Site visit to Mauna Kea take place within the next couple of weeks. Goal in setting up work plan is early onset of Authority involvement and ongoing review through planning process. Planning progress to become a regular agenda matter in future Authority meetings.

Comments by ED De Fries

- D. Attending the Native Hawaiian Convention by Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, October 6-10, 2025: MSKOA to be represented by ED De Fries, PD Stormont. 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson and Member Hannahs to also attend.

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

- A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami- August Financial report including appropriations, budget, expenditures, balance: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Item-VII-A.pdf>
- B. FY26-27 MSKOA Biennium Budget: Covered concurrently with Item A.

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

- A. Operational Update- Report by CMS ED Chun:
 - 1. Project Updates: New BLNR requirement of OCCL approval in review and approval process, to also include indemnification language, affected several projects previously presented to MKSOA. Commercial Tour Operator fee increase to be implemented October 1. Draft Environmental Assessment being prepared for Underground Fuel Storage Tank removal - cultural practitioner input to be incorporated and submitted to advisory boards. Very Long Baseline Array light instrument replacement, Solar water heater project approved by OCCL. Keck pier repair entering second phase of process. Also, single-vehicle accident took place on Mauna Kea Access Road, car went into culvert, victim was extracted and transported to Hilo Medical Center with serious injuries. Also, Visitor Information Station gift store sales have increased 30% annually for August, likely due to

inventory management improvements and online sales.

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

1. Discussion on Cost-Sharing between CMS and MKSOA for FY26 and FY27: Recommendations to be presented at October Authority meeting.
2. Update on Site Visit by Kua o Wākea (Planning Team) to Hale Pōhaku and Summit of Mauna Kea: Site visit to take place on 23rd of September, agenda under development. JMC co-management functions to be “front-burnered” in the coming phase of management planning and transition overall.

IX. STATUS OF THE THIRTY METER TELESCOPE (TMT)–Public

Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items

- A. INFORMATION ONLY Briefing–Dr. Fengchuan Liu, Project Manager: Apology by TMT International Observatory (TIO) for initial approach to the project. Discussions have taken place with over 1,500 people including protectors. Focus of community engagement has shifted based on what community needs have been expressed, and listening to criticism. Plan created to renovate nearby astronomy building for mirror assembly facility and work with incoming UHH engineering program. Unclear how process is to move forward following White House FY26 Budget Request removing TMT from Final Design phase. Spanish government’s offer of site in Canary Islands is being explored, but no decision has been made. TIO is open to reusing a previously disturbed site on Mauna Kea, but unsure about what it would take for a new permit. Plan for decommissioning fund to ensure that money for decommissioning is in place well before it is needed. TIO hoping to be returned to final design phase by NSF, TIO partners are willing to fund if so, but there are long term funding implications if not. With due consideration to Act 255, plan regarding mirror chemical coating has changed to performing first and second coats at sea level, rather than re-coating on the summit. Not claiming to be an expert to land use, but believes the 2010 EIS is sufficient, but is very open to listening to any insufficiencies. Definitely interested in looking at a previously decommissioned site (old CSO site). Delay has been considerable, and at some point, will become not-viable. TIO is definitely not seeking Department of Defense (DOD) funding or in any discussion with DOD. Also, design considerations are being made to potentially make mirror more curved in order to reduce the size of the structure as much as possible. TIO absolutely does not want to return to 2015 or 2019, and will only proceed with the support of the community. Any water needed will be trucked up, and waste would be trucked down, as with the other observatories

PUBLIC TESTIMONY:

1. Vaughan Cooke, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hawai‘i
2. Kanoe Case

Questions and comments by Member Alameda, 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Members Hannahs, Bertelmann, Krug, Mangauil. Comments by Chair Komeiji.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- OCTOBER 9, 2025, 10:00AM-12:00PM
- B. NEW MEETING VENUE- IFA LIBRARY 640 N. AOHOKU PL, HILO
- C. COMMUNITY TALK-STORY HILO 9/24/25 – 5:00PM-7:00 PM UH HILO,
HALE ‘ŌLELO

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:54 am.

Approved _____