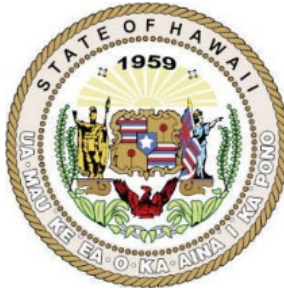


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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, October 9, 2025

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

https://youtube.com/live/Ygl2f_b-CIc

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

PRESENT, Zoom: Chairperson John Komeiji; Second Vice-Chair Rich Matsuda; Paul Horner; Bonnie Irwin; Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole; Lanakila Mangaui; Pomai Bertelmann; Neil Hannahs

EXCUSED Members: First Vice-Chair Noe Noe Wong-Wilson; Kalehua Krug; Ben Kudo; 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); Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General (AG); Christopher Daggett, Consultant (MKSOA);

GUESTS: Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS); Rodrigo Romo, MKSS General Manager (CMS); Kristin Duin, Consultant (CMS); Andrew Hood, Consultant (CMS); Doug Simons, Director (IFA);

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Emiko "Emmy" Okawa- Re: Item VIII.A.1.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING

MOTION: Motion by Member Hannahs, 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. VOTE: Executive Director Performance Appraisal PIG Report – PIG Report recommendation to create new PIG as described in Item IV.B.

MOTION: Motion by Member Hannahs, Second by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda
ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

- B. Executive Director Evaluation PIG – Creation of a Permitted Interaction Group to Develop Specific Criteria for Evaluation and Interface with Management to Implement Process. Chaired by Member Hannahs, PIG Members Bertelmann and Kudo: Vote taken under Item IV.A.
- C. 2026 Legislature – Proposed Amendments and Discussion: Five highest priority items requiring legislative clarification: (1) Clarify intent of Act 255 regarding manner of land transfer from UH to MKSOA. (2) Clarify who will possess the authority to issue Conservation District Use Permits (CDUPs) after 2028 transition period ends. (3) Transfer of currently existing CDUPs held by UH on behalf Maunakea Observatories (MKOs) to the MKOs themselves. (4) Holdover use of UH Maunakea Master Plan, Comprehensive Management Plan, Administrative Rules until completion and adoption of MKSOA Management Plan and Administrative Rules. (5) Clarification on sovereign immunity for MKSOA as an entity.

Comments by Members Irwin, Hannahs, Executive Director De Fries

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 (excused):
Waiting for delivery date for furniture, working with DLNR-IT to get internet. Old BOH building will be released back to DLNR, needs cleanup, vendor found.
 2. Community Talk Story Session Series:
 1. Report on Hilo Community Meeting: Mahalo to Ka‘iu Kimura, Hale ‘Ōlelo- very special location, good community turnout, good insights collected.

Comments by Member Hanahs

2. Waimea – Kahulu Town Hall, 10/23/25:
Confirmed, encore presentation, same format as previous sessions. Second Waimea meeting had been requested by community due to

multiple events having taken place on the evening of the previous Waimea talk-story session.

- B. Status of Long Term Transition Working Group (LTTWG)- Member Kudo:
1. Status Update: Item deferred until next meeting.

- C. Update on Consulting Services to Develop a Management Plan for the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority – Consultant Christopher Daggett: Management planning to take place in four phases: (1) Research & Discovery, (2) Planning & Engagement, (3) Management & Strategic Planning, (4) Transition. Currently in phases (1)/(2). Draft plan to be presented for community input approximately Q2 next year. Mauna Kea site visit, review of existing UH plans have taken place but are iterative, overall research task is ongoing. Next month, review workshop of research tasks to take place 10/22, Kua o Wākea management planning consultants to attend next Authority meeting for introduction and provide visual timeline to Board.

Question by Member Hannahs

- D. 2025 Native Hawaiian Convention by Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement Preliminary Report: 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Member Hannahs, ED De Fries, and PD Stormont attended. Mauna Kea was not on official agenda for conference, but an ad hoc Community Talk-Story session was held, Malia Ka‘aihue and Rebecca Soon of Kua o Wākea were also present. Numerous important conversations took place, and future discussions to follow. Mauna Kea to be featured at next year’s convention.

Comments by Member Hannahs, ED De Fries

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

- A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami- September Financial report including appropriations, budget, expenditures, balance: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Item-VII.pdf>

Member Horner left the meeting at 10:51 am, meeting continued on an informational basis. No further votes to be taken.

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. Visitor Traffic Update – Information Only: Uptick in visitor traffic, rental companies appear to be pushing jeep rentals, Turo-type private renters also marketing 4x4 vehicles. Vehicle counts in excess of 100 vehicles at the summit at sunset. Commercial Tour Operators (CTOs) feeling squeezed out by volume of vehicles. CMS senior staff working on creating space for CTOs. Important to look at general visitor traffic issue for management

plan, especially around CTOs and independent vehicles. Several options have been considered by CMS, such as are employed at Hanauma Bay or Hā'ena.

Member Mangauil left the meeting at 11:00 am.

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

1. Hale Pōhaku UST Decommissioning Draft EA Presentation (See attached materials) – Information Only: Details contained in attached document at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Item-VIII-B1.pdf>. Introduction of consultants Kristin Duin and Andrew Hood, review of project, regulatory requirements. Leak detection equipment has shown no leaks. Hydrocarbon sniffing equipment to be used for removal process. Archaeological review plan underway, Kapa'akai analysis has been conducted. Draft EA to be presented to community, includes archaeological monitoring plan.

Member Bertelmann joined meeting at 11:09 am

2. Discussion on Cost-Sharing between CMS and MKSOA for FY26 and FY27: Proposals to be presented to Performance and Oversight PIG for recommendations to be presented to the full Authority.

IX. OVERVIEW OF UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY (IFA)–Public

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

- A. INFORMATION ONLY Briefing–Dr. Doug Simons: Details contained in attached document at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Item-IX.pdf>. Act 255 has a clause about MSKOA conducting an assessment as to where IFA should be physically located. Overview of IFA programs, facilities across three islands, research, education, technology development, community outreach. Overview, origins and potentials for future of IFA as Hawai'i State Astronomy program.

Questions by Chair Komeiji, Members Hannahs and Bertelmann

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- NOVEMBER 9, 2025, 10:00AM-12:00PM
- B. NEW MEETING VENUE- KŪKAHAU'ULA, INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY (IFA) LIBRARY 640 N. AOHOKU PL, HILO
- C. COMMUNITY TALK-STORY WAIMEA 10/23/25 – 5:00PM-7:00 PM, KAHILU TOWN HALL

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 pm.

Approved _____