

## **APPENDIX E. PROCESS TO ESTABLISH WHICH ASTRONOMY FACILITIES MAY CONTINUE AFTER 2033**

In addition to the two facilities (CSO and Hōkū Kea) for which decommissioning notices have already been submitted, the VLBA Antenna (Astronomy Site 14) is also identified to be decommissioned as required by Condition 11 of the TMT CDUP. This leaves the following ten facilities with the potential to continue beyond 2033: Subaru, Keck I, Keck II, IRTF, CFHT, Gemini, UH 2.2, UKIRT, JCMT, and SMA. Of these, the 9-operating-facility restriction discussed previously means that, with the TMT occupying Astronomy Site 13 and taking up one of the slots, only eight could continue; two more would need to be decommissioned by the end of 2033.<sup>66</sup>

At the appropriate time, UH will send letters to each of the facilities that are not both owned and operated by UH, asking them whether they wish to continue beyond 2033 or are committed to decommissioning by that date. The letters will be addressed to the official representatives of the organizations which own and/or operate each facility. In most cases this would be the agency that entered the current sublease. The letters will articulate the expected terms that would apply if their facility were to continue operations after 2033. The organizations will be given ample time to respond. On the same time scale, UH would decide which of the UH-owned and operated facilities it wishes to continue beyond 2033.

The appropriate time for sending the letter will be after the relevant terms of the new land authorization that UH is seeking are known, along with whatever other requirements might apply, some of which could be derived from this Master Plan. UH is already coordinating with the non-UH facilities on the terms that might be applicable in the event of a new agreement, and it is expected that discussions and negotiations will be ongoing up until the time that the facility-owner responses to UH are due. Simultaneously, UH will seek input from advisory bodies, community groups (including Native Hawaiian organizations), and the wider community and will consider the input it receives from these groups and individuals in its decision-making process.

Some level of flexibility needs to be incorporated into planning processes. For example, during the period leading up to the response deadline, some organizations might merge and support only one of their facility's operations beyond 2033. It is also possible that another organization might propose to take over a facility that the current operating organization decides not to support beyond 2033. These types of arrangements could also occur at other points in the process described in this section.

Once the responses have been received from the organizations responsible for all the facilities and UH has made its own decisions, it will be known whether or not there are more than nine facilities, including TMT, that wish to continue beyond 2033. If there are nine or less, then UH would enter into the new agreements with all the non-UH-owned facilities that have expressed their intent to continue operating. The organizations responsible for the facilities that will not be continuing would begin the decommissioning process in time to complete it by the end of 2033.

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<sup>66</sup> Without an operational astronomy facility located at Astronomy Site 13, only one, instead of two, would need to be decommissioned by the end of 2033.

If there are more than nine facilities that desire to continue operations beyond 2033, UH will develop and implement a process to determine which facilities may continue beyond 2033. Based on the goals and objectives described in this Master Plan, UH will propose alternative facility combinations for consideration, with each alternative consisting of nine facilities drawn from the up to 11 in the MKSR that may indicate an interest in operating beyond 2033. UH will also propose a decision-making process that will include consultation with the MKOs, with appropriate advisory groups, and with the wider community. This process will include consideration of the scientific value of each facility and its site, environmental considerations, and community interests. The cultural importance of each site will also be factored into UH's process to identify which facilities will continue operation beyond 2033. UH may propose an advisory committee be established to provide an independent expert assessment of the relative merits of the various facility combinations. Depending on the circumstances, UH may ask the committee for a recommendation in addition to the assessment. The selection process will end with a decision by UH on which facilities will continue after 2033. UH hopes to have this decision made by the end of calendar year 2026, to allow sufficient time for decommissioning under the Decommissioning Plan process.

UH's target date for having new agreements in place with the continuing non-UH facilities is January 1, 2027. Facilities not continuing would be expected to submit decommissioning NOIs by that date if they had not yet done so. This will allow seven years for them to complete the decommissioning process. Five of the 14 astronomy sites will no longer be eligible for future astronomy facilities, including recycling, once existing astronomy facilities on them have been decommissioned. As discussed in Section 4.2 of this Master Plan, some non-astronomical use of certain astronomy sites may be considered during or after the decommissioning process.

## **APPENDIX F. ASTRONOMY SITE DESCRIPTIONS AND DEPICTIONS**

# Appendix F: Astronomy Site Descriptions and Depictions

Notes:

- Astronomy Site descriptions are limited to current use, the Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) that permits current use, and their approximate area in acres.
- Astronomy Sites 9, 10, and 14 are not described or depicted because they are ineligible for future use by astronomy facilities. Astronomy Site 14 is currently occupied by VLBA and is much lower on the mauna.
- For astronomy sites that have, or had, subleases, the Astronomy Site boundary is based on the sublease. The extents of Astronomy Sites 2 and 3 (Keck I and Keck II) are based on dividing the single Keck sublease area into two sites based on drawings included in CDUP applications for the two facilities.
- The boundary of Astronomy Site 7 was established based on the extent of the existing facilities, disturbed area, its relationship/proximity to adjacent uses, and topography.

— Astronomy Site Boundary (colors alternative for clarity)

- - - Topographic contour (25 foot interval, from photogrammetric methods using air photos taken 6,000 feet above mean terrain on 9/25/1996)

Source: University of Hawai'i

