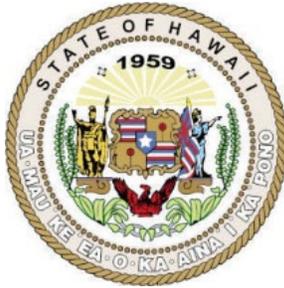


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JOHN KOMEIJI  
*Chairperson*

\*KIMO ALAMEDA  
POMAI BERTELMANN  
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\*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, January 8, 2025

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://youtube.com/live/SwGrICuzG5M>

#### AUTHORITY MEMBERS

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

**EXCUSED Members:** Lanakila Mangauil; Paul Horner

**MKSOA SUPPORT:** Pua'ena Ahn, Executive Assistant, Board Secretary (MKSOA); John De Fries, Executive Director (MKSOA); Lloyd Unebasami, Interim Administrative Services Officer (MKSOA); Craig Iha, Deputy Attorney General (AG); Christopher Daggett, Consultant (MKSOA);

**GUESTS:** Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS); Nahua Guilloz; Director of Stewardship Programs (CMS); David Lonborg, UH Institute for Astronomy (IFA);

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

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:01 am. Opening remarks by Executive Director (ED) De Fries and 1st Vice-Chair (VC) Wong-Wilson.

Member Irwin joined meeting at 10:06 am

#### II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

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

**MOTION:** Motion by 2nd VC Matsuda, Second by 1st VC Wong-Wilson  
**ACTION:** Unanimous by show of hands.

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

A. Status of Draft Legislative Bill: Continuing with draft bill, WAL Committee leadership and composition has changed, now chaired by Sen Chris Lee. Four-point bill. Conservation District Use Permit decision-making has been removed from bill following discussions with Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) Chair Chang. Chair Chang clarified that MKSOA signoff will be required for any Conservation District Use applicant and that BLNR would not circumvent MKSOA. BLNR would neither review nor approve/disapprove MKSOA management plan.

**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. Review of MKSOA Annual Report to 33rd Legislature, 2026 Session: Report document available at:  
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Item-VI-A-1.pdf>
2. Status of Hiring Process: Administrative Services Officer recruitment in process, offer to be made within one week, followed by Program Specialist-RR within two weeks, subject to onboarding processes. Seven more authorized positions not yet recruited, new approach of contracting CMS being developed and will be put on February agenda.

Comments by Member Hannahs and ED De Fries

3. Organizational Chart Submitted to State Senate Ways and Means Committee (WAM). Document available at:  
<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Item-VI-A-3.pdf>
4. Update on the Formation of MKSOA Advisory Groups: Brief update contained in Appendix 5 (page 47) of Annual report. Same link as Item IV.A.5.

Comment by 1st VC Wong-Wilson and Member Hannahs

5. Status of Act 255 Mandate to Conduct an Assessment on Whether the University of Hawai‘i School of Astronomy Should be Relocated, in Whole or in Part, to the University of Hawai‘i at

Hilo: Institute for Astronomy Director Simons to report on this matter at February meeting.

- B. Status of Long-Term Transition Working Group (LTTWG), Report by [Chair Komeiji]: Master Transfer Plan expected by end of Q1 2026.

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

- A. Progress Report by Kua o Wākea: Introduction of project website to fortify community engagement efforts and to keep the public informed: Updated community workshop schedule. Management Plan project website at kuaowakea.org. In-person Honuiaiakea training for Board, date of 1/22/26, same day as Ko‘olau workshop. Edith Kanaka‘ole Foundation also holding last Papakū Makawalu training in Jan/Feb

Comments by 1st VC Wong-Wilson

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

- A. Project Updates
1. UKIRT Notice of Intent to Decommission (Type C) – Action Item: Details contained at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Item-VIII-A-1.pdf>. Clarification by ED Chun that Notice of Intent is not itself a Type C project and does not require action at this time. David Lonborg, IFA
  2. CMS Fire Mitigation Plan and Site Plan Application (Type B) – Action Item: Justin Yeh, CMS; Cutting of firebreaks and removal of brush. Old growth māmane needs to be cut, Environment Committee had concerns. Clarification by ED Chun that approval is being sought for Fire Mitigation Plan and one single project which is an aspect of that plan

Questions and comments from Members Bertelmann, Hannahs, and 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson.

**MOTION:** Motion for approval of Fire Mitigation Plan and Site Plan Application by 2nd VC Matsuda, Second by 1st VC Wong-Wilson

**DISCUSSION:** None

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

3. Subaru Monitoring Equipment Upgrade (Type A) – Information Only

Joy Yoshina, request for concurrence from OCCL as scale of project does not involve ground disturbance and does not require permit. Radio frequencies used by monitoring equipment does not appear to affect Hawaiian Hoary Bats at summit altitude.

Question by Member Bertelmann

**IX. MKSOA-CMS JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (JMC) Public Testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items**

A. Update on Development of Financial Stabilization Plan: ED Chun- Next two fiscal years (FY) look pretty bleak, expected to finish FY with a \$62k deficit but can be squeezed down to finish at net zero. FY27 to end with \$1.5m deficit, FY28 to end with \$2.5 deficit.

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

A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Unebasami- December Financial report including appropriations, budget, expenditures, balance: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Item-VII.pdf>

Member Alameda left the meeting at 11:23 am

**XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- MARCH 12, 2026, 10:00AM-12:00PM;  
KŪKAHAU‘ULA, INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY (IFA) 640 N. AOHOKU  
PL, HILO

1. VERIFICATION OF ATTENDANCE AND QUORUM  
(AUTHORITY MEMBERS)

B. Kua o Wākea Community meetings

Final comments by PD Stormont

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** Motion by 1st VC Wong-Wilson, Second by 2nd VC Matsuda.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.

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