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*BEN KUDO
LANAKILA MANGAUIL
RICH MATSUDA
NOE NOE WONG-WILSON

*ex-officio

MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 12, 2025

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://youtube.com/live/n4ie-NCnoXg>

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

PRESENT, Zoom: Chairperson John Komeiji; First Vice-Chair Noe Noe Wong-Wilson; Second Vice-Chair Rich Matsuda; Neil Hannahs; Kalehua Krug; Ben Kudo; Pomai Bertelmann; Lanakila Mangauil; Paul Horner

EXCUSED Members: Kimo Alameda; Ryan K.P. Kanaka'ole; Bonnie Irwin

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);

GUESTS: Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS); Nahua Guilloz, Director of Stewardship Programs (CMS); Doug Simons, Director, UH Institute for Astronomy (IFA); Eric Grigel, M3 Engineering (M3)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:06 am. Opening remarks by Member Bertelmann.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2026 REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING

Member Bertelmann stepped away at 10:11, approval tabled

MOTION: Motion by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Second by Member Hannahs.
ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

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

- A. Introduction of MKSOA-related Legislative Bill HB 2592 “Relating to the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority”: Bill passed up to House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee.

Member Kudo joined meeting at 10:12 am.

- B. Regarding HB 2593 “Relating to Mauna Kea” and Companion Bill SB 3310: Bill would extend by 10 years Master Lease for MKOs, also heard at WAL, Deputy AG introduced comment on the constitutionality of bills which reference specific lands through special legislation, suggested that MKSOA be given the authority to extend leases prior to date of transfer. Bill passed with amendments to House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee. Provides a tool for use at MKSOA’s discretion but no predetermined outcomes. MKSOA took no position on original language but did raise questions in its comments. MKSOA will support bill as amended.

Comments by Vice-Chairs Matsuda and Wong-Wilson, Member Hannahs

- C. Regarding SB 2003 “Relating to Natural Resource Management”: Would require State Auditor to make a determination of the fitness of MKSOA to manage the Mauna Kea Lands, and if determined to be unfit, management of Mauna Kea would revert to UH. Chair recommends opposing bill. Not currently scheduled for hearing.

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. Update on October 24, 2025 Letter from Governor Josh Green, M.D. and Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation to Principals of Thirty Meter Telescope International Observatory (TIO): Meetings were convened meetings between MKSOA and DLNR, OCCL, CMS, AG and OGC. Presentation on permitting process in final review by entities respective legal counsels, above entities collectively and actively seeking meeting with Governor on the matter, Hawai‘i Congressional Delegation second in priority.
 2. Update on Hiring Process – Administrative Services Officer and Program Specialist- Research and Reporting: Offers have been issued and accepted by candidates. Names of candidates to remain confidential at this time pending completion of onboarding process.

- B. Status of Long-Term Transition Working Group (LTTWG), Report by

Member Kudo: Mauna Kea Master Transfer Plan draft complete, under review and editing process, expected complete next week. Next draft will be provided to LTTWG for review and comment, hoping to finalize and transmit to respective governing boards ahead of schedule.

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

- A. Progress Report by Kua o Wākea: Community Workshop Series Update: Approximately 1,300 individuals engaged across five different islands, Hilo highest participation, second highest at Ko‘olau, third at Waimea. Audiovisual investment has been worthwhile, two workshops remaining, Ka‘ū next Wednesday, Kona next Thursday. Will continue to see engagement through online survey and individual interviews.

Comments by Vice-Chairs Matsuda and Wong-Wilson, Member Hannahs.

- B. MKSOA Members and Staff Honuiaiākea Training (Date Pending): Staff to poll Board members on availability later.

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

- A. Project Updates
1. Subaru Lower Dome Re-coating and Replace Upper Exhaust Vents (Type B) – ACTION ITEM: Details contained in document at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Item-VIII-A.pdf>

Questions and Comments by Member Hannahs, Vice-Chairs Matsuda and Wong-Wilson, Chair Komeiji.

MOTION: Motion for approval of Subaru Lower Dome Re-coating and Replace Upper Exhaust Vents by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda, Second by Member Hannahs.

DISCUSSION: None.

ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

- B. 2025 Natural Resources Program Annual Report – INFORMATION ONLY: Details contained in document at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Item-VIII-B.pdf>

Questions, comments by Member Hannahs, Vice-Chairs Wong-Wilson and Matsuda, Project Director Stormont.

Member Kudo left the meeting at 11:15

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: Draft plan under review

with JMC, finalizing language. Draft to be submitted to Chair and Vice-Chairs by end of next week. General intent is to contract CMS to maintain its operations in whole. Memorandum of Agreement forthcoming pending approval of plan.

- B. Range of Considerations in Conducting 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- Presentation by Doug Simons, Director, Institute for Astronomy (IfA) – INFORMATION ONLY: Details contained in document at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Item-IX-B.pdf>

Questions and comments by Chair Komeiji, 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Member Hannahs.

Items IX.C. and X. Taken together due to the related nature of the topics.

- C. UH Regents Maunakea Interaction Group IV Report – Recommendation to Amend the UH Master Plan – INFORMATION ONLY: Details contained in document at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/Item-IX-C.pdf>: UH Board of Regents passed recommendation to amend Maunakea Master Plan (MKMP) to allow astronomical use of previously decommissioned sites consistent with Act 255 in that regard. Amendment to MKMP to come before MKSOA for approval at a future point in time. UH had previously committed to decommissioning 5 observatories and not to allow site use for astronomy facilities. Amendment does not trigger or preapprove a Conservation District Use. MKMP is not subject to approval by BLNR. CMS to conduct outreach around amendment, which may also require EIS.

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

- A. Congressional Directive: HR 6938 signed into law by US President, regarding funding National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Includes \$30M funding for both US Extremely Large Telescopes, both TMT and GMT into final design phase at no cost to US government.

Explanation by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda: NSF funding has been restored to near previous levels, to proceed to final design review at no cost to federal government.

XI. 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>

XII. 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:

1. Ka‘ū: 2/18/26, Nā‘ālehu Community Center, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM
2. Kona: 2/19/26, La‘i ‘Ōpua 2020, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Motion by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Second by Member Hannahs.

Meeting adjourned at 12:09 pm.

Approved _____