UNIVERSITY of HAWAI'I at HILO
CENTER FOR MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Maunakea Management Board

July 7, 2026

Meeting In-Person and Remotely by Zoom

Attending:

MKMB Members:	
Present In Person:	Gregory Chun, Bonnie Irwin, Michael Miyahira
Present Remotely by Zoom:	Chair Roberta Chu, 2nd Vice Chair Julie Leialoha, Dr. Billy Bergin, Kehau Gomes
Kahu Kū Mauna:	Excused
UH:	(CMS) Gregory Chun PhD, Marybeth Young (UHH) Bonnie Irwin (OGC) Erika Strawn (MKSOA) Bill Stormont

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2026. In accordance with Sunshine Law, remote attendees confirmed their locations and noted any individuals present with them (there were none).

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no written or oral testimony presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the June 2, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Greg Chun to approve the minutes as submitted, and seconded by Kehau Gomes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. KAHU KU MAUNA REPORT

Greg Chun reported on the Kahu Kū Mauna (KKM) activities and discussions since the last meeting:

A. G. Chun reported on Kaleo Pilago's various educational and community engagement initiatives that he provided to KKM. One highlight was the recent Keanakako'i Huaka'i, which focused on the revival of the traditional art and practice of koʻi making (adzes). The group expressed interest in touring significant cultural sites on the mauna to deepen their understanding and connection to the land..
B. Potential Partnerships: There is a possibility for future collaboration between KKM, the Center for Maunakea Stewardship (CMS), and the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration (NAR) to support cultural education and preservation efforts.
C. Underground Storage Tank Discussion: The council discussed the ongoing project related to the underground storage tank, emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship and support for replacing aging infrastructure with above-ground alternatives. This aligns with KKM's commitment to protecting cultural and natural resources on Maunakea.
D. Overall, KKM members found the recent activities important and expressed enthusiasm for continuing our efforts to engage the community and promote cultural awareness in partnership with KKM.
E. G. Chun also committed to having Kaleo provide an update on our education and outreach activities to MKMB at an upcoming meeting.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ED Chun reported on the following:

A. Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) Transition

a. UH notice to transfer the general lease for the Maunakea Science Reserve to MKSOA

i. The University of Hawaii (UH) has issued a notice to transfer the general lease for the Maunakea Science Reserve to MKSOA. This transition was issued as a preliminary step to MKSOA being able to extend leases as authorized by Act 53 that was passed this legislative session. MKSOA holding the property interest in the lands they will be managing enables enhanced stewardship and ensures that management aligns with the cultural and environmental values of the area.

b. UH Master Plan Amendment Update:

i. Review of draft 4 of the amendment is underway. As a reminder, the amendment process is underway to align the UH Master Plan with Act

255, which prioritizes the reuse of decommissioned astronomy sites for future astronomy uses. The goal is to ensure that the master plan reflects current needs and promotes sustainable practices while respecting cultural heritage.

c. MKSOA RFP's for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Administrative Rules

i. Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are being prepared for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to new leases and for the development of administrative rules. These documents will be crucial in guiding future activities on Maunakea and ensuring compliance with environmental regulations.

B. Operational Services Transition Package (Financial Stabilization Plan)

a. The Operational Services Transition Package is in place to ensure financial stability during the transition to MKSOA. This includes a financial stabilization plan that outlines funding allocations and support mechanisms to facilitate a smooth transition while maintaining ongoing operations and services.

i. ED Chun highlighted that two invoices had already been submitted and processed, totaling around $850,000 for the Ranger program and deferred maintenance activities.

ii. He noted that these funds are critical for maintaining operations and supporting ongoing activities on Maunakea.

iii. Additional invoices are expected to be processed, with payments anticipated in August or September. Chun expressed appreciation for the advocacy from Executive Director John DeFries in securing these funds.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

No specific agenda items were discussed during this meeting.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter executive session to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(4), regarding the Board's decision-making process in its joint-management role with MKSOA, was made by Greg Chun and seconded by Julie Leialoha. The motion passed unanimously, and at 5:49 p.m. the Board moved into an executive session. The session concluded at 6:27 p.m., and the public meeting reconvened at 6:28 p.m. Greg Chun reported that the board and its attorney discussed joint management issues with MKSOA, and that no decisions were made and no votes were taken during the executive session.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next MKMB public meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 4, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Roberta Chu at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Clark
July 14, 2026