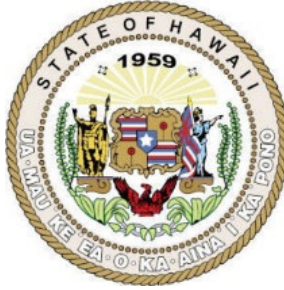


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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Chairperson

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

**ex-officio*

MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 9, 2026

10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://youtube.com/live/JbJF9wRXwbM>

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

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

EXCUSED Members: Kalehua Krug;

MKSOA SUPPORT: Pua'ena Ahn, Program Specialist- Research & Reporting (MKSOA); John De Fries, Executive Director (MKSOA); Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General (AG); Keala Patterson, Administrative Services Officer (MKSOA); Bill Moore, Consultant Contractor (MKSOA)

GUESTS: Nahua Guilloz, Director of Stewardship Programs (CMS); Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS); Justin Yeh, Natural Resources Manager (CMS)

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Opening remarks by ED De Fries. Due to technical error, livestream was not started until 10:08 am. Meeting was re-called to order at for the viewing public.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Written testimony C. Burghardt and M.C. Smith.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 18, 2026 REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING

Document located at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Item-IIIa.pdf>

Correction (amendment) suggested by 1st Vice Chair Wong-Wilson.

MOTION: Motion by 1st Vice Chair Wong-Wilson, Second by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda to approve as amended.

ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

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

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

Comment regarding Aspirational statement

1. MKSOA Staffing and Recruiting: Executive Assistant (EA) candidate has been selected and conditional offer made. One of two Business Transformation (BT) Fellow candidates has made a commitment and both the EA and BT candidate aim to start mid-August.
2. Management Plan Update: Kua o Wākea (KoW) deliverable date July 31, KoW is on track to complete all Phase 3 deliverables. As of June 30, drafts have been received for earlier phases, currently under review by PD Stormont and contractor Bill Moore. Comments to be provided to PIG and Board within the next two weeks. Financial consultant SPIRE has been brought on and has been met with.
3. Communications Update: Expect communications briefing from consultant contractor DDC Consulting at next Board meeting.
4. Update on Meetings with Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) Staff Relating to Mauna Kea Access Road: Meetings happened. Vy Lam from DHHL joined a prior JMC meeting to collect feedback, high degree of concern over the prospective of tolls being collected, especially to vehicles that are merely passing through to other destinations than DHHL lands. Potential of working collectively with other agencies and stakeholders, possibly in the form of a working group.

Comment by CMS ED Chun

5. June 15, 2026 Letter from UHS President Wendy Hensel, UHM

Chancellor Vassilis Syrmos, UHH Chancellor Bonnie Irwin and June 26, 2026 Letter of Response from MKSOA ED De Fries: Overview provided by Member Irwin, including background on UH discussions prior to issuance of letter. Essence of letter is to offer assistance and address UH concerns of running out of time with regard to expiration of current leases

Comment by Chair Komeiji that MKSOA still in discussion with legal counsel regarding potentialities around Master Lease transfer; Further comment by Vice-Chairs Wong-Wilson and Matsuda.

- B. Status of Long-Term Transition Working Group (LTTWG), Report by Member Kudo: Fourth draft of Master Transfer Plan distributed to working group members yesterday. Approximately 98% to final completion. Target date for next (and hopefully final) draft by end of month. Note that transfer plan does involve recommendations regarding Master Lease. Suggestion of Executive Session to discuss with counsel regarding legal issues raised. Note of recent roster changes to UH Board of Regents.

Comments and Questions by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda, Member Hannahs, Chair Komeiji

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

- A. CMS Halepōhaku Educational Nature and Heritage Trail Site Plan Application – ACTION ITEM: Introduction by CMS ED Chun, presentation by CMS Natural Resources Manager Yeh, details contained in document located at: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Item-VII-A.pdf>

Questions and comments by Members Mangauil, Hannahs, Bertelmann, CMS ED Chun and Director of Stewardship Programs Guilloz

MOTION: Motion to approve submittal of Site Plan Application to Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Second by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda.

DISCUSSION: Questions by Member Mangauil regarding trail paving materials, Member Hannahs regarding staffing for projected facility use.

ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

Member Alameda left the meeting at 10:55 am.

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

Member Mangauil left the meeting at 11:13 am.

- A. Update on Comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): Preferred path

was originally Professional Services method of procurement. Due to the level of expertise needed to adequately fill selection committees being unavailable, Requests for Proposals will be issued pending determination of adequate scope of work. Late summer timeline.

- B. Update on Administrative Rulemaking: Preferred path was originally Professional Services method of procurement. Due to the level of expertise needed to adequately fill selection committees being unavailable, Requests for Proposals will be issued pending determination of adequate scope of work. Late summer timeline.
- C. Update on Lease Process Workshop: Overview by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda of workshop provided to Maunakea Observatories (MKOs), a series of questions posed as to establishment of working relationship between MKSOA and MKOs with particular regard to their own respective internal governance around decision making.

Comments by Institute for Astronomy (IfA) Director Simons

Member Kanaka'ole joined the meeting at 11:21 am.

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

- A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Patterson- June Financial and 2026 Fiscal Year End Report Including Appropriations, Budget, Expenditures, Balance: Details contained within attached document available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Item-IX-A.pdf>

Comments by Member Hannahs

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- AUGUST 13, 2026, 10:00AM-12:00PM; KŪKAHAU'ULA, INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY (IFA) 640 N. AOHOKU PL, HILO.
 - 1. AUTHORITY MEMBERS: PLEASE NOTIFY BOARD SECRETARY IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING.

- B. UPCOMING PERSONNEL CHANGE: Retirement and resignation of Executive John De Fries as of July 31, 2026 for family and personal reasons.

Expressions of thanks by Chair Komeiji, Vice Chairs Wong-Wilson and Matsuda, Members Hannahs, Kanaka'ole, Bertelmann, Irwin, IfA Director Simons, CMS ED Chun, MKSOA Consultant Contractor Moore,

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Motion by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Second by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda.

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

*Approved*_____