

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Maunakea Management Board

August 4, 2026

Meeting In-Person and Remotely by Zoom

Attending:

MKMB Members:

Present In Person: Gregory Chun, Andy Adamson

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, Sarah Clark
(UHH) Bonnie Irwin
(OGC) Erika Strawn
(MKSOA) Bill Stormont
(BOR) Michael Miyahira, Makai Freitas
(CMS) Kaleo Pilago, Kamalani Poepoe

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 4, 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 July 7, 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 that the report provided by Kaleo Pilago (Agenda Item A) covered material discussed at the previous Kahu Kū Mauna (KKM) meeting. ED Chun requested that Chair Chu allow K. Pilago to present first.

A. Education and Outreach Annual Review by Kaleo Pilago:

- a. K. Pilago introduced Kamalani Poepoe, a recent UHH graduate and new addition to the CMS outreach team.
- b. The outreach program engaged with 24 groups this year, resulting in approximately 477 participants, down from 700 the previous year due to a more selective approach.
- c. K. Pilago emphasized the importance of partnerships with local organizations, such as the Hawaii Island Health Center and Maunakea Learning Center, to enhance educational opportunities.
- d. Challenges included transportation barriers for high school groups, which limited participation.
- e. Future goals include expanding outreach efforts and integrating Indigenous knowledge into educational programming.
- f. Overall, KKM members found the recent activities important and expressed enthusiasm for continuing efforts to engage the community and promote cultural awareness.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ED Chun reported on the following:

A. Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) Transition

a. Interim Joint Management Plan

- i. MKSOA Strategic Management Plan Development: Drafts of the management plan are being reviewed, with comments due by August 14th. Community engagement is planned for next year
- ii. MKSOA Executive Director Resignation: John DeFries has resigned, prompting discussions on ensuring continuity during the recruitment of a new Executive Director.
- iii. Project Teams: CMS teams will support MKSOA staff in developing the management plan, RFPs for EIS and Administrative Rules, and with preliminary lease negotiations.
- iv. Lease Negotiations: Preliminary discussions with Observatories regarding leases are a priority and have started, as these processes can take several years.

b. UH Master Plan Amendment Update

- i. The amendment process is underway to align the UH Master Plan with Act 255 and 53, which prioritizes the reuse of decommissioned astronomy sites for future uses. A draft is expected to be presented to the board next month.

B. CMS Operations

a. UST Replacement Project

- i. The site plan application is targeted for submission this month to the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL).

b. Educational Trail and Greenhouse Project

- i. The site plan application has been approved by OCCL, and plans for an RFP to engage a planning consultant are in progress.

C. Financial Stabilization Plan

a. The Operational Services Transition Package (OSTP)

- i. The OSTP is in place to ensure financial stability during the transition to MKSOA. Recent invoices for operational services and equipment replacement have been processed, totaling around \$850,000. Additional invoices are expected to be processed soon.

D. Recent Developments

a. Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT)

- i. It has been reported that a substantial proposal from the Spanish government regarding the Thirty-Meter Telescope project has been put on the table, with a decision expected by the end of September.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Education and Outreach Annual Review - Kaleo Pilago (Information Only)

- a. Provided during the Kahu Kū Mauna (KKM) report.

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 6:12 p.m. the Board moved into an executive session. The session concluded at 6:47 p.m., and the public meeting reconvened at 6:54 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, September 1, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Roberta Chu at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Clark
August 5, 2026