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

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MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP AND OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (MKSOA)

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PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 10, 2026, 10:00 am

Online via ZOOM and livestreamed via YouTube

Meeting Recording Available at

<https://www.youtube.com/live/dAlGW8z1cwk>

If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact the MKSOA Board Secretary at mka.testimony@hawaii.gov or (808) 272-0259 as soon as possible. Upon request, this document is available in alternate/accessible formats.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS

PRESENT, Zoom: Chairperson John Komeiji; First Vice-Chair Noe Noe Wong-Wilson; Second Vice-Chair Rich Matsuda; Neil Hannahs; Bonnie Irwin; Lanakila Mangaui; Pomai Bertelmann; David Day (BLNR Chair's Designee); Ben Kudo; Kalehua Krug

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

MKSOA SUPPORT: Linda Chow, Deputy Attorney General (AG); Keala Patterson, Administrative Services Officer (MKSOA); Bill Moore, Consultant Contractor (MKSOA); Joel Kam, Special Deputy Attorney General

GUESTS: Greg Chun, Executive Director (CMS);

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME PROTOCOL

Chair Komeiji called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Opening remarks by Member Hannahs.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, REGULAR AUTHORITY MEETING

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

ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

IV. CHAIR REPORT – No public testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items.

- A. Approval of Aspirational Statement as Required by Act 255, SLH 2022 - ACTION ITEM.** Review of process by Member Hannahs – Collective work of PIG and Donalyn Dela Cruz, looked at whether the mandates of Act 255, SLH 2022 pertinent to statement were met. Thanks to all Authority members who provided individual comment, concerns raised fell into seven distinct categories and are now addressed directly in [statement](#). Comments by Members Mangaul, Bertelmann, 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Chair Komeiji. Action deferred to next meeting pending further revision.
- B. Strategic Framework Update:** [Current update of document](#) being circulated for review and comment.
- C. Canada France Hawaii Telescope Executive Director (CFHT ED) Recruitment:** [Job posting](#). Noted specific desired qualifications in posting including “Familiarity with the governance landscape of Maunakea, including the role and mandate of MKSOA. “An understanding of Hawai‘i cultural context, including the significance of Maunakea to the Native Hawaiian community.” - Comments by Member Hannahs

V. GOVERNANCE– No public testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items.

VI. ADMINISTRATION – No public testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items.

A. Report by Chair Komeiji

Comment regarding Aspirational statement

- a. MKSOA Staffing and Recruiting: MKSOA Executive Director (ED) Hiring: Currently on the verge of being able to post job listing, thanks to ASO Patterson and staff for their hard work, approximate timeline of one week. Also posting Program Specialist position as well. Selection committee also to be formed.
- b. Management Plan Update: First draft of Strategic Management Plan approximately 700 pages, PIG has reviewed and provided substantive comment. Pending revision, second draft to be circulated for review by Board, Deputy AG Chow. Schedule of release fluid, to be determined but is on track.

B. Status of Long-Term Transition Working Group (LTTWG Master Transfer Plan –

ACTION ITEM: Overview by Member Kudo- Current draft at hand is fifth draft, process began in 2024 with former Member Horner, representation by UH, CMS, UH OGC, DLNR, OCCL, LAND, AG. Need existed to analyze various assets to be transferred per Act 255, SLH, including real and personal property instruments.

Further explanation by Special Deputy Attorney General Joel Kam of [M4 Law]. UH provided LTTWG with “data dump” of collection of files including (but not limited to) leases, easements, operating agreements, which were then separated into several “buckets,” including “sub-buckets” relating to categories of Maunakea Observatories (MKOs). Other “buckets” include Land Use Permits (ex: CDUPs), communications network, other permits and personal property. Recommendations made related to assignability to MKSOA by UH – specifically whether and how to do so. Recommendations also include PIGs be formed on governing bodies (MKSOA, UHBOR, BLNR) to address items that working group members did not agree on, i.e. communications network and early assignment of UH master lease. Question also exists whether consent of Federal government is required to transfer assets

which were built using Federal funds. Duties and obligations under OSDAs related to 3rd-party observatories with UH are also unclear, such as support services – Hale Pōhaku use, logistical support incl. road clearing, versus scientific cooperation and observing time. Issues also exist with CDUPs and SPAs as to how to memorialize transference and divide obligations. Communications network also at issue, UH position is that they should retain ownership, language appears to indicate that network is subject to transfer. Concerns by DLNR remain regarding divisions of authority and enforceability regarding pertinent laws, further clarifying legislation needed. MTP is not a roadmap of all actions that need to occur, lots of close coordination between stakeholders needed to effectuate transition.

Comment by Member Kudo that five major issues identified are resolvable, but emphasized that PIGs need to be formed and that the 90% of assets that can be transferred without issue and should be as soon as possible.

Comments and questions by Member Day regarding prior comments by DLNR quoted in MTP, as well as intent of Act 53 to resolve issues that have arisen.

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

MOTION: Act 255 and Act 53 enacted into law by the State Legislature in 2022 and 2026, respectively, mandated that the University of Hawaii transfer all assets and liabilities relating to the functions delegated under said Acts to the MKSOA (i.e., leasehold ownership, management and stewardship, land use regulation, preservation and protection of Native Hawaiian rights, community engagement, operations, planning, revenue source development, etc.) be transferred to the MKSOA. Based upon the foregoing, The Long-Term Transition Working Group (“Working Group”) was formed by MKSOA in 2023 to investigate, study and research all of the assets and liabilities held by the University of Hawaii pertaining to the aforementioned functions. The Working Group has prepared and delivered this MTP covering the results and recommendations of its work, which commenced in April 2024 and concluded on August 2026. We hereby acknowledge receipt of the MTP and approve its recommendation to commence with the Working Group’s final phase of work, that is, to implement the transfer and assignment of those assets and liabilities identified within the MTP. Consistent with the recommendations contained in the MTP, we also approve the formation of a MKSOA Permitted Interaction Group to work with the University of Hawaii to address the five (5) unresolved issues, as summarized in MTP Article 8, Concluding Remarks section, and to address any other issues engendered by the MTP and its implementation.

MOTION by 2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda to acknowledge receipt of the Master Transition Plan...approve the formation of a Permitted Interaction Group by MKSOA and, Second by Member Day.

DISCUSSION: None.

ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

VII. CENTER FOR MAUNAKEA STEWARDSHIP (CMS)– No public testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items.

- A. Lake Waiau 8/30/26 Emergency Incident: Report by CMS ED Chun** – Hiker to Lake Waiau from HP, rangers noted that hiker had not returned, PTA received a 911 call that hiker

had decided to swim in Waiau and appeared to develop hypothermia. Hiker was taken to ER. Important to highlight inter-agency coordination in emergency situations, especially at night. Recommendation to MKSOA that relationships require continued development. DOCARE did end up citing individual with trespass, CMS recommends MKSOA look at rules/laws of neighbors in development of Admin Rules for consistency.

VIII. MKSOA-CMS JOINT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (JMC) No public testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items.

A. University of Hawai'i Maunakea Master Plan Proposed Revisions

Discussion of proposed revisions to the UH's 2022 Master Plan for the University of Hawai'i Maunakea Lands and their relationship to MKSOA's responsibilities during the management transition.– ACTION ITEM. Comment of clarification by Chair Komeiji that this is UH's Master Plan that is being amended, and MKSOA's input is being sought as a "B-Project" in terms of land uses.

UH BOR directed CMS to amend MKMP for consistency with Act 255 regarding reuse of footprints of previously decommissioned sites. Current 2022 MKMP holds that decommissioned sites are ineligible for reuse. Per Act 53, SLH 2026, "UH plans and rules remain in force and effect" until MKSOA's are implemented. The amendment process included analysis of all existing sections that would be impacted by change. However, changes are limited to UH MKMP only, does not affect prior UH commitments to decommissioning (9 observatories), TMT CDUP conditions (esp pertinent to decommissioning), and UH Decommissioning (sub)Plan.

Overview of how to use Konveio online feedback form website in the following agenda Item V.A.2. Website will remain open until October 14.

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

MOTION: Motion to [defer decision making on this matter until October meeting] by [1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson], Second by [2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda].

DISCUSSION: Member Hannahs: PR issue; 2nd [VC] Matsuda – Process question; [BCJK] comment re. contribution by Greg and Nahua to help MKSOA with transition tasks; Greg – capacity limitations with public facing efforts.

ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

B. Online Feedback Form at <https://mkmp.konveio.com>

IX. FINANCE– No public testimony taken (written or oral) on any of these items.

**A. Report by Interim Administrative Services Officer Patterson- [August Financial Report Including Appropriations, Budget, Expenditures, Balance](#)
Comments by 1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson, Member Hannahs**

MOTION: Motion to approve July Financial Report by [1st Vice-Chair Wong-Wilson],

Second by [2nd Vice-Chair Matsuda].

DISCUSSION: None.

ACTION: Unanimous by show of hands.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. NEXT AUTHORITY MEETING- OCTOBER 8, 10:00AM-12:00PM; KŪKAHAU‘ULA, INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY (IFA) 640 N. AOHOKU PL, HILO.

- a. AUTHORITY MEMBERS: PLEASE NOTIFY BOARD SECRETARY
IMMEDIATELY IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING.**

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

ACTION: Meeting adjourned at 12:37 pm.

*Approved*_____