

Revised Draft MKSOA Strategic Framework based on community input

MKSOA staff considered the community input gathered through a series of community meetings and compiled by facilitator Mahina Paishon in developing edits to the Strategic Framework. The revised draft reflects key themes raised through that process, including stewardship, education, cultural rights, preservation, restoration and clearer language.

The community compilation contains repeated themes, excerpts, and meeting questions and answers. The following breakdown is a thematic summary rather than a comment-by-comment inventory or a claim of community consensus.

Language and purpose

What the community raised	Where it appears in the revised draft
1. Clearer mission and purpose Input: Mission and Purpose Statement; Terms are Not Understandable.	Mission and Purpose begins: “To steward and protect Mauna Kea for future generations” and names cultural, environmental, educational, and scientific significance.
2. Less jargon and more respectful wording Input: Protest Language; Jargon or Not Easily Understandable Terms.	Legislative Finding and Intent describes “concerns” about increasing use and facility expansion. “Protests,” “paradigm,” “engendered,” and “synergy” do not appear.
3. Explain the basis of core values Input: Core Values; Information and Language of Act 255.	Core Values identifies the Working Group and legislative basis and supplies HRS references for Mauna Aloha, ‘Ōpū Kūpuna, and Holomua ‘Oi Kelakela.
4. Make kānāwai understandable Input: Explaining the laws of kānāwai; Kānāwai Cycles.	Core Values names Dr. Pualani Kanaka’ole Kanahale and describes four natural laws, including continuum, emergency, boundaries, and regeneration.
5. Clarify order and relationships Input: Relationship Between the Framework Components; Formatting Differences.	Guiding Principles expressly states “Listed in Alphabetical Order.” Values and principles have separate headings.

Culture and community

What the community raised	Where it appears in the revised draft
6. Protect Native Hawaiian practices Input: Hawaiian Traditional and Cultural Practices; Native Hawaiian Participation.	Protection of Native Hawaiian Rights upholds traditional and customary rights and encourages cultural understanding. 'Ōpū Kūpuna addresses perpetuating practices.
7. Recognize significance across the Pacific Input: Mauna Kea's Significance Beyond Hawai'i.	Significance of the Mauna identifies Mauna Kea as a significant wahi pana for Hawai'i and "throughout the Pacific."
8. Broaden community participation Input: Community Engagement and Communication; Replace Community Engagement with Community Collaboration.	Commitment to Community Engagement names Hawai'i Island, the Pae 'Āina, practitioners, and expertise in land management, education, and sciences. Kuleana includes collaborative work.
9. Center accountability to the mauna Input: Non-Human Perspectives; Mauna Kea Is More Than Just a Natural Resource.	Kuleana states accountability "to the Mauna itself." Kānāwai addresses the health of 'āina and all life forms. Kaiāulu places Mauna Aloha at the center.
10. Use accessible language and formats Input: 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; User Friendly; Visuals.	The draft includes Hawaiian terms, English explanations of kānāwai, Kaiāulu, and Kuleana, and a definition of ecosystem approach. <i>Additional Note: Consistent with recent state initiatives, MKSOA will make all public documents, including this Framework ADA compliant.</i>

Environment and land use

What the community raised	Where it appears in the revised draft
11. Preserve as well as restore Input: Preservation and protection are missing; Restoration of Natural Resources.	Preservation & Restoration of Natural Resources explicitly combines preservation, restoration, conservation, and careful management of human activity.
12. Address water and ecological health Input: Water and Aquifers; Measures for Ecological Functioning; Endemic Plants and Animals.	The ecosystem approach includes land, water, and living resources. Land Use Management identifies potable water and wastewater.
13. Manage impacts of activities Input: Natural Resources Management; Process for regulation and oversight.	Land Use Management specifies regulatory oversight, leave-no-trace, reduced ground disturbance, energy, wastewater, water, emissions, and visual impacts.
14. Explain permitted and prohibited uses Input: Inventory of Activities; Historical and Contemporary Uses; Sports restrictions question.	Land Use Management requires a clear purpose and oversight; Significance of the Mauna calls for the highest standards for permitted activities.
15. Define the highest standards Input: Clarity on the Highest Standard of the Mountain; Who makes the final decision?	Significance of the Mauna connects standards to history and sacredness. Holomua 'O'i Kelakela commits to challenging the status quo.

Education science and remaining decisions

What the community raised	Where it appears in the revised draft
16. Strengthen education and youth opportunities Input: Education Is Missing; Youth Representation; Education and Youth Engagement.	Mission and Purpose include education. Support of Astronomy encourages student growth and workforce development for local families.
17. Recognize science beyond astronomy Input: Expanding on Astronomy; Recognition of Science Beyond Astronomy; Celestial navigation.	Mission and Purpose use the broader terms “scientific significance” and “scientific research.” Community Engagement includes expertise in “the sciences.”
18. Explain support of astronomy and State policy Input: Guiding Principle 4; Clarity of what types of astronomy are protected.	Support of Astronomy states “Guided by State policy” and links astronomy to reciprocity, education, research, and workforce development.
19. Explain jurisdiction and governance Input: Boundaries of the Authority; Governance and Legal Foundations; Organizational chart.	The introduction identifies creation of MKSOA through Act 255, but provides no jurisdiction map, agency responsibility chart, or appointment explanation.
20. Address history and restorative justice Input: Generational trauma; treaties; land ownership; restorative justice; vision statement.	Legislative Finding and Intent acknowledge stewardship concerns, trust, and accountability. Specific historical grievances and restorative justice are not expressly stated.

Community input proposed for rulemaking review

Topic and linked input	Questions for rules or related procedures
Access and activity restrictions Crosswalk 6 and 14	When and where may activities occur? Consider cultural access, visitor and commercial use, recreation, closures, and activity restrictions. Explain reasons for requirements and protect traditional and customary rights.
Cultural protections Crosswalk 6 and 9	What protections and consultation procedures are needed for cultural practices, sacred places, and affected practitioners or descendants? How will restrictions and rights be considered together?
Permits and review of uses Crosswalk 13 to 15	Which activities need permission? Establish review criteria, conditions, limits, responsibilities, and explanations of decisions. Consider commercial tours, concessions, research, and other uses raised by the community.
Environmental standards Crosswalk 11 to 15	What requirements apply to disturbance, waste, water, emissions, energy, visual impacts, and sensitive areas? Define applicable standards and connect them to monitoring and restoration priorities.
Conduct and education Crosswalk 10 to 14 and 16	What conduct, orientation, or training is required for visitors, operators, and other users? Consider leave-no-trace expectations and culturally informed protocols, including requests for stronger tour-driver education.
Compliance and accountability Crosswalk 13 and 15	Who checks compliance and responds to violations? Review reporting, inspections, corrective measures, available enforcement tools, and any review or appeal procedures within the Authority's powers.

Other feedback for MKSOA Considerations in its future management

Community request	Proposed pathway and unresolved work
Ecological measures and restoration Crosswalk 11 and 12	Management plan: establish ecological baselines, restoration priorities, indicators, monitoring, and responsibilities. Coordinate with rules where enforceable protections are needed.
Sustained dialogue and accessible information Crosswalk 8 and 10	Engagement and communications: specify recurring opportunities, participation by youth and underrepresented communities, how questions are answered, and how decisions and astronomy activities are reported. Consider videos, local media, translations, and source links.
Funding and commercial revenues Input: Funding and Resources	Budget and financing: explain funding needs and how resources support stewardship and enforcement. Review any fee or concession proposals separately for authority and feasibility; the framework supplies no funding plan.
Boundaries and agency coordination Crosswalk 19; input concerning Pōhakuloa	Public information and coordination: prepare jurisdiction maps and an agency responsibility chart. Respond to requests concerning adjacent areas without implying that MKSOA can extend its jurisdiction through this framework.
History and governance concerns Crosswalk 19 and 20	Board and legal review: respond to lineal descendant recognition, land status, treaties, past enforcement, representation, and the statutory name “Authority.” Identify what MKSOA can address and what requires action elsewhere.
Values in practice and indigenous guidance Crosswalk 3 to 5 and 15	Planning and decision procedures: develop examples or a decision tool and consider the community’s suggested references, including Mai Ka Pō Mai, Kūkulu Ke Ea Kanaloa, and the Burra Charter.