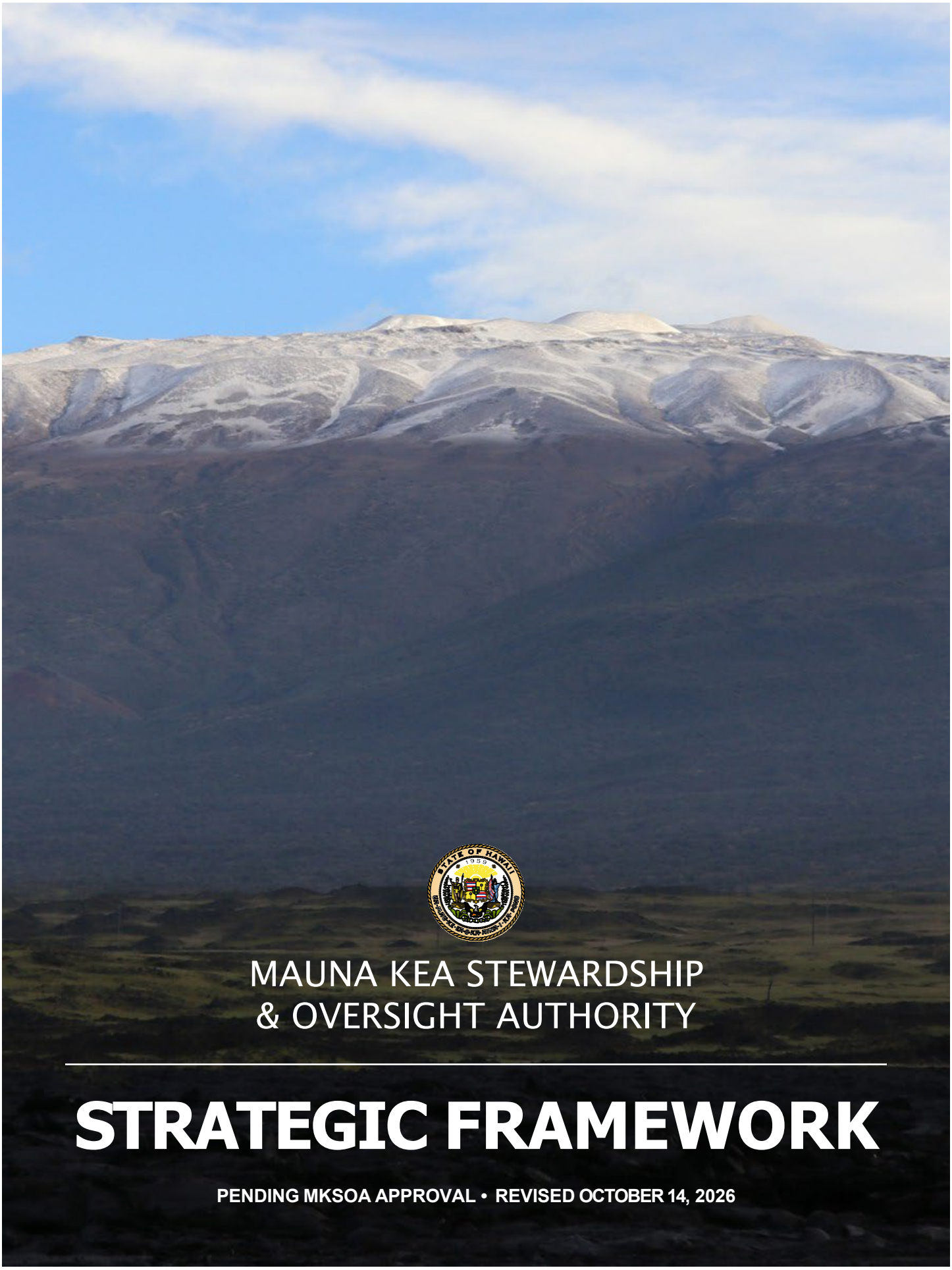


MAUNA KEA STEWARDSHIP
& OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

PENDING MKSOA APPROVAL • REVISED OCTOBER 14, 2026

LEGISLATIVE FINDING AND INTENT

Mauna Kea holds profound spiritual, environmental, and scientific significance. Its summit is home to sacred cultural landscapes, fragile ecosystems, and historic and archaeological artifacts. Rising above the Pacific, Mauna Kea's unique geographic and atmospheric conditions have also made it one of the world's most important locations for astronomical observation and discovery, contributing to humanity's understanding of the universe.

Over time, concerns regarding the increasing use of Mauna Kea and the expansion of astronomy facilities brought great attention to the protection of the mountain's cultural and natural resources, questions of stewardship responsibility, and the need for greater community trust, accountability, and balance in decision-making.

In response, the Hawai'i State Legislature established the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) through Act 255, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022, to guide a new model of governance and stewardship for Mauna Kea. The Legislature intended for the MKSOA to provide balanced oversight that honors the mauna's cultural and environmental significance while responsibly managing educational and scientific uses.

MISSION AND PURPOSE

To steward and protect Mauna Kea for future generations through a balanced and collaborative approach that honors its cultural, environmental, educational, and scientific significance.

The Authority is committed to a stewardship model that honors cultural practices, safeguards natural resources, and supports education and scientific research for future generations.

ASPIRATIONAL STATEMENT

The Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority will strive to achieve a desired state with the following characteristics:

Mauna Kea is a highly revered and healthy wahi pana that nurtures a thriving native ecological environment.

The Mauna is cared for holistically, managed under a Strategic Framework grounded in Kānāwai (natural laws of creation), Hawaiian Values, and Guiding Principles that include shared stewardship and meaningful community engagement. The privilege of land use is permitted under terms that are reciprocal and mutually beneficial to the ʻāina and other stakeholders.

Mauna Kea is home to genealogical and cultural landscapes, biologically fragile habitats, and living knowledge that reflect the ingenuity and knowledge of ʻŌiwi Hawaiʻi, carried across generations through observation, ceremony, relationship, and stewardship. Traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights are honored.

Educational programs share the history and natural sciences of Mauna Kea. Astronomical research is distinguished by intellectual rigor, integration of Hawaiʻiʻs rich heritage of celestial observation, as well as the knowledge and opportunities shared with local and global communities.

Mauna Kea lands are held in trust as a cherished asset until such time as a sovereign Native Hawaiian entity is established and recognized. An enduring commitment to actions that comport with core values offer a measure of redress for historical injustices related to Hawaiʻiʻs loss of sovereignty, as well as past misguided land use decisions and failures to fulfill promised obligations.

ʻO Mauna Kea Kū Kilakila

Standing majestically is Mauna Kea

The MKSOA aspires to earn and maintain the community's trust by consistently and transparently upholding the following values and guiding principles.

CORE VALUES

The following were taken directly from the 2022 Mauna Kea Working Group Report, which became Act 255, the founding legislation establishing MKSOA, now codified in Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 195H.

1. **Mauna Aloha** – Understanding the responsibility to reciprocate for the Mauna's value to humanity by making a long-term commitment to maintaining the integrity of Mauna Kea's spiritual significance and extraordinary environmental qualities. HRS 195H-4(1).

2. **'Ōpū Kūpuna** – Understanding and embracing a duty and accountability to Mauna Kea and the natural environment, as well as perpetuating the Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices embedded in the landscape of the Mauna. HRS 195H-4(2).

3. **Holomua 'Oi Kelakela** – Driven by creativity and innovation, constantly challenging the status quo with a commitment to stewardship of Mauna Kea that is informed by existing wisdom and traditions, as well as expanding knowledge. The Authority shall be mindful and considerate of the impacts generated by current and future needs, trends and research opportunities and shall seek ways to move forward which enhance the ability to serve as responsible stewards without jeopardizing the foundation of 'āina aloha. HRS 195H-4(3).

4. **Kānāwai** – Observing four laws of nature that govern our relationship to our 'āina that are meant to ensure the health of the 'āina so that it will continue to nurture all life forms.

    - **Hoʻokikī Kānāwai** – the edict of continuum, cycles that balance and regulate our environment.

    - **Kua'ā Kānāwai** – the edict of emergency, cycles replete with natural phenomena and elemental activity that forecast impending disaster.

    - **Kai'okia Kānāwai** – the edict of boundaries, delineations of the divisions of earth established by lava flows, rivers, valleys, ocean, shoreline, land, sky and forest.

    - **Kīho'iho'i Kānāwai** – the edict of regeneration, reflecting the resilience of land and an ability to recover from destructive actions and reestablish its natural regenerative cycles.

5. **Kaiāulu** – Community. Kaiāulu holds people in kinship and in relationship to place, recognizing the interwoven nature of different needs and desires while focusing on what may be possible together with Mauna Aloha at the center, carrying out responsibilities and possibilities over multiple generations.

6. **Kuleana** – Responsibility. Kuleana holds MKSOA accountable to the Mauna itself and to the people of Hawai'i, compelling the Authority to cultivate good relationships, respectful dialogue, broad engagement, mutual education, and collaborative work.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

(Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Commitment to Community Engagement — Meaningful community engagement is integral to planning and decision-making. Outreach and engagement shall include the people of Moku o Keawe (Hawai'i Island) and across the Pae 'Āina, including cultural practitioners and community members with expertise in land and natural resource management, education, and the sciences.

Land Use Management — Land use shall have a clear and specific purpose, appropriate regulatory oversight, and minimize impacts to the Mauna. Responsible use and reuse of previously developed areas shall be prioritized where appropriate, while reducing unnecessary ground disturbance and supporting the coexistence of users. Sustainable practices shall guide the management of energy, wastewater, potable water, emissions, and visual impacts.

Protection of Native Hawaiian Rights — Traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights, as set forth in the Hawai'i State Constitution, shall be upheld and protected. Efforts that deepen understanding of Native Hawaiian history, knowledge, and cultural practices associated with Mauna Kea shall be supported and encouraged.

Preservation & Restoration of Natural Resources — Protection, preservation, and restoration of Mauna Kea's natural resources shall guide the management of human activity on the Mauna. An ecosystem approach shall integrate the stewardship of land, water, and living resources while promoting conservation and sustainable use.

Significance of the Mauna — The cultural, spiritual, environmental, and scientific significance of Mauna Kea shall guide decisions regarding its stewardship and use. As one of the most significant wahi pana in Hawaiian culture, a place of profound importance to the people of Hawai'i and throughout the Pacific, and a world-leading center for astronomy research and innovation, permitted activities shall be held to high standards that respect and honor the history, cultural significance, and sacredness of Mauna Kea.

Support of Astronomy — Astronomy and its reciprocal relationship with Mauna Kea shall be supported consistent with State policy. Education, research, student development, and workforce opportunities shall strengthen and empower local families and communities.

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Additional Resources

Mauna Kea Working Group Report HR33 SLH 2021

Act 255, Session Laws of Hawaiʻi 2022

Mauna Kea Stewardship & Oversight Authority Website