Astronomy Advisory Group Charter – Changes from Original Draft

I. Mission and Purpose

[§195H-9] Advisory groups. (a) The authority shall establish advisory groups to advise the authority in its management of Mauna Kea.

The Astronomy Advisory Group (hereafter referred to as "AAG") provides a means for two-way information sharing that is required or useful to the authority in planning and management of Mauna Kea, and to the observatories for planning and operations. The AAG shall incorporate an education component into its deliverables and regular activities to foster a deeper understanding of astronomical research, STEM education, science outreach, and compliance with the overarching framework of environmental kinship (Kumu Kānāwai).

The Authority's Aspirational Statement and Core Values, which guide the work of the AAG, are found on pages 3 and 4, respectively, of the Authority's Strategic Framework.

II. Scope of Work

The Group serves to advise and exchange information with the Authority on all matters concerning astronomy and related activities on Mauna Kea. Its broad purview encompasses comprehensive management and strategic planning, land leasing, decommissioning frameworks, financial assurances, operational access, shared infrastructure, regulatory compliance, environmental protection, climate change mitigation, resource preservation, community engagement, local economic impacts, educational programming, and the scientific merit and operational effectiveness of astronomy projects and programs.

III. Membership

The AAG shall consist of a maximum of seven members to ensure a focused and effective working size. Membership is structured as follows:

The Astronomy Advisory Group should encompass a broad cross-section of expertise relevant to astronomy, including:

- Astronomical Science & Capabilities: astronomy, astrophysics, astronomical facilities, and emerging and enabling capabilities on the ground and in space, nationally and internationally.

- Cultural Astronomy: indigenous, traditional, and contemporary understandings of the cosmos across diverse cultures and knowledge systems.
- Mauna Kea Observatory Operations: observatory management, strategic planning, safety, logistics, and facility operations.
- Education, Workforce & Community Impact: education, workforce development, community engagement, outreach, and communications.

Members: Nominations are open to anyone, who may nominate themselves or others, and the Mauna Kea Observatories (MKO) directors will continue to nominate members. A screening committee of the Authority board will review nominations, and the full Authority board will make final appointments, ensuring total membership does not exceed seven.

Authority Members: Authority members will not be appointees to the Advisory Group but may attend meetings to clarify issues and to guide discussion to topics that would be of most benefit to the Authority.

A concerted effort shall be made across all appointments to ensure diversity in background, experience, and institutional affiliation.

Term: Members shall serve for a term of 3 years, with the possibility of reappointment for two additional terms. Initial terms may be staggered to assure continuity on the AAG.

Appointment of Chair: The Authority will appoint the Chair of the AAG. The Chair is responsible for setting meeting agendas, facilitating discussions, and coordinating the timely flow of information between the AAG and the Authority.

The AAG functions strictly in an advisory capacity**, is not a subcommittee of the MKSOA,** and holds no decision-making authority for the MKSOA. The AAG provides input, pros/cons, and considerations rather than binding recommendations. While the AAG is not bound by the Sunshine Law, transparency and open meetings are encouraged. Sunshine Law provisions will, however, apply to Authority members. Consequently, any participation by members of the MKSOA Governing Entity's board is strictly limited to a maximum of two members at any given time to ensure compliance. To support its work, the AAG may invite outside experts from astronomy, IfA faculty, UHH faculty, the community, MKSOA staff, or the Authority.

IV. Duties and Responsibilities

Members are responsible for providing evidence-based advice aligned with the Kumu Kānāwai and actively participating in all meetings. Operational duties include reviewing materials and reports supplied by the Authority, conducting ad hoc design reviews for proposed projects or facility modifications, integrating education components into ongoing outreach, maintaining strict confidentiality regarding sensitive information, and delivering timely findings and non-binding recommendations to the Authority. Members shall disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest to MKSOA staff who will seek guidance regarding recusal from the Authority chair.

V. Meetings

The AAG shall meet at least 6 times per year, either in person or virtually. The Chair may call additional meetings outside the regular schedule as needed.

VI. Reporting

Initially, the Authority will provide necessary administrative support to the AAG, including meeting logistics, the preparation of meeting minutes, and the distribution of reports. The AAG shall submit an annual report to the Authority summarizing its activities, educational initiatives, findings, and non-binding recommendations. This report will be made public, subject to the protection of any sensitive information. The AAG may also submit ad hoc reports on specific topics as requested by the Authority or as deemed necessary by the AAG.

VII. Term and Review

This charter shall be in effect for a period of 3 years from the date of its approval (following PIG and Board approval). The charter shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the AAG and MKSOA at the end of this period to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

Cultural Advisory Group Charter – Changes from Original Draft

I. Mission and Purpose

[§195H-9] Advisory groups. (a) The authority shall establish advisory groups to advise the authority in its management of Mauna Kea.

The Cultural Advisory Group (hereafter referred to as "CAG") is established to advise the Authority on Native Hawaiian cultural matters affecting managed lands on Mauna Kea. Grounded in ʻike kūpuna and the Kumu Kānāwai, the Group serves Mauna Kea from a Native Hawaiian perspective as a trusted advisor to those who mālama the mountain, facilitating two-way information sharing for planning, cultural resource preservation, and adaptive management. Additionally, the CAG ensures that cultural training, protocol, orientation frameworks, and educational resources are integrated into its ongoing deliverables and operations.

The Authority's Aspirational Statement and Core Values, which guide the work of the CAG, are found on pages 3 and 4, respectively, of the Authority's Strategic Framework.

(Note: MKSOA recognizes that Kahu Kū Mauna currently serves in this capacity and has provided valuable counsel. Kahu Kū Mauna members are encouraged to apply for membership of the CAG and will be considered along with other applicants).

II. Scope of Work

The Group advises and makes recommendations to the Authority for the protection and care of cultural resources and practices, focusing on the integration of traditional knowledge systems and Mauna Kea kānāwai into management policies. Its purview covers the protection of physical resources, archaeological sites, and historic materials; practitioner networking, access, and support for traditional and customary practices; and protocols regarding burial treatments and iwi kūpuna. Furthermore, the scope encompasses the review and oversight of visitor information materials, signage, entryways, and cultural training programs, as well as the review of proposed plans, policies, projects, and annual monitoring to ensure alignment with Mauna Kea kānāwai, cultural management policies and the highest kapu of the mauna.

III. Membership

The CAG shall consist of a maximum of seven members to ensure a focused and effective working size. Membership is structured as follows:

The Cultural Advisory Group should encompass a broad cross-section of expertise relevant to Hawaiian culture, including:

- Hawaiian Cosmology: traditional and contemporary understandings of the cosmos, the heavens, and the relationship between sky, land, and people.
- Land & Resource Management: worldview, stewardship practices, and the care of land and natural resources.
- Hawaiian Culture & Practices: traditional and contemporary cultural practices, protocols, customs, language, and oral traditions.
- Hawaiian History & Genealogy: Hawaiian history and the family genealogies and place names of Hawai‘i Island.
- Mauna Kea Kānāwai: understanding of the laws, customs, and governing principles associated with Mauna Kea.

Members: Nominations are open to anyone, who may nominate themselves or others. A screening committee of the Authority board will review nominations, and the full Authority board will make final appointments, ensuring total membership does not exceed seven.

Authority Members: Authority members will not be appointees to the Advisory Group but may attend meetings to clarify issues and to guide discussion to topics that would be of most benefit to the Authority.

A concerted effort shall be made across all appointments to ensure diversity in background, experience, and institutional affiliation.

Term: Members shall serve for a term of 3 years, with the possibility of reappointment for two additional terms. Initial terms may be staggered to assure continuity on the CAG.

Appointment of Chair: The Authority will appoint the Chair of the CAG. The Chair is responsible for setting meeting agendas, facilitating discussions, and coordinating the timely flow of information between the CAG and the Authority.

The CAG functions strictly in an advisory capacity**, is not a subcommittee of the MKSOA,** and holds no decision-making power for the MKSOA. The CAG provides input, pros/cons, and considerations rather than binding recommendations. While the CAG is not bound by the Sunshine Law, transparency and open meetings are encouraged. Sunshine Law provisions will however, apply to Authority members. Consequently, any participation by members of the MKSOA Governing Entity's board is strictly limited to a maximum of two members at any given time to ensure compliance. To support its work, the CAG may invite outside experts from astronomy, IfA faculty, UHH faculty, the community, MKSOA staff, or the Authority to its meetings.

IV. Duties and Responsibilities

The CAG is responsible for providing culturally grounded advice on Native Hawaiian cultural matters, access priorities, and historical preservation while actively participating in meetings and dedicating adequate preparation time. Members must review proposed plans, policies, projects, and educational materials to ensure alignment with stewardship mandates, and integrate comprehensive educational and training components into group deliverables. Additionally, the group handles administrative and reporting duties by maintaining confidentiality regarding sensitive information and submitting timely findings and non-binding recommendations to the Authority. Members shall disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest to MKSOA staff who will seek guidance regarding recusal from the Authority chair.

V. Meetings

The Cultural Advisory Group shall meet at least 6 times per year, or as required, either in person or virtually. The Chair may call additional meetings outside the regular schedule as needed.

VI. Reporting

Initially, the Authority will provide necessary administrative support to the CAG, including meeting logistics, the preparation of meeting minutes, and the distribution of reports. The CAG shall submit an annual report to the Authority summarizing its cultural advisory activities, educational deliverables, findings, and non-binding recommendations. This report will be made public, subject to the protection of any sensitive or sacred information. The CAG may also submit ad hoc reports on specific topics as requested by the Authority or as deemed necessary by the CAG.

VII. Term and Review

This charter shall be in effect for a period of 3 years from the date of its approval (following PIG and Board approval). The charter shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Group and MKSOA at the end of this period to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.

Natural Resources Advisory Group Charter – Changes from Original Draft

I. Mission and Purpose

[§195H-9] Advisory groups. (a) The authority shall establish advisory groups to advise the authority in its management of Mauna Kea.

The Natural Resources Advisory Group (hereafter referred to as "NRAG") is established to advise the Authority on the protection, preservation, and management of Mauna Kea's natural resources, physical environment, and ecosystem health. Grounded in the Kumu Kānāwai, the NRAG serves as environmental subject matter experts to support holistically evaluated planning, project management, and policy development, facilitating two-way information sharing with the Authority. Additionally, the group incorporates educational components into its ongoing activities to foster a deeper understanding of the mountain's unique environment.

The Authority's Aspirational Statement and Core Values, which guide the work of the NRAG, are found on pages 3 and 4, respectively, of the Authority's Strategic Framework.

II. Scope of Work

The Group advises and exchanges information with the Authority on natural resource management and conservation strategies, focusing on the protection and enhancement of native flora, fauna, geological features, and the natural environment through the application of traditional Kānāwai principles such as Kānāwai Kuahiwi, Kānāwai Kūikawao, Kānāwai Kupukupu, Kānāwai Pahukini, and Kānāwai Kāmilohae. Its purview includes environmental impact assessments, climate change adaptation and mitigation, regulatory compliance and monitoring, and resource restoration and stewardship practices. Furthermore, the scope encompasses the integration of traditional ecological knowledge with scientific practices, alongside educational programming related to resource protection.

III. Membership

The NRAG shall consist of a maximum of seven members to ensure a focused and effective working size. Membership is structured as follows:

The Natural Resources Advisory Group should encompass a broad cross-section of research and management expertise relevant to Mauna Kea's natural environment, including, but not limited to:

- Native Hawaiian worldview and resource background – botany and ethnobotany, ornithology, and invertebrate biology
- Ecosystem composition, function and restoration, management of those systems and areas, and ahupuaʻa management principles
- Invasive species management and control, including plant, mammal, and invertebrate
- Geology, hydrology, meteorology, and climatology

Members: Nominations are open to anyone, who may nominate themselves or others. A screening committee of the Authority board will review nominations, and the full Authority board will make final appointments, ensuring total membership does not exceed seven.

Authority Members: Authority members will not be appointees to the Advisory Group but may attend meetings to clarify issues and to guide discussion to topics that would be of most benefit to the Authority A concerted effort shall be made across all appointments to ensure diversity in background, experience, and institutional affiliation.

Term: Members shall serve for a term of 3 years, with the possibility of reappointment for two additional terms. Initial terms may be staggered to assure continuity on the NRAG.

Appointment of Chair: The Authority will appoint the Chair of the NRAG. The Chair is responsible for setting meeting agendas, facilitating discussions, and coordinating the timely flow of information between the CAG and the Authority.

The NRAG functions strictly in an advisory capacity**, is not a subcommittee of the MKSOA,** and holds no decision-making power for the MKSOA. The NRAG provides input, pros/cons, and considerations rather than binding recommendations. While the NRAG is not bound by the Sunshine Law, transparency and open meetings are encouraged. Sunshine Law provisions will however, apply to Authority members. Consequently, any participation by members of the MKSOA Governing Entity's board is strictly limited to a maximum of two members at any given time to ensure compliance. To support its work, the NRAG may invite outside experts from astronomy, IfA faculty, UHH faculty, the community, MKSOA staff, or the Authority to its meetings.

IV. Duties and Responsibilities

The NRAG is responsible for providing candid, evidence-based advice guided by the Kumu Kānāwai while actively participating in meetings and discussions. Members must review materials, environmental reports, and management plans supplied by the Authority, and integrate comprehensive educational components into ongoing deliverables and outreach. Additionally, the group handles operational and administrative duties by maintaining confidentiality regarding sensitive information, recording meeting minutes, and submitting timely findings, reports, and non-binding recommendations to the Authority. Members shall disclose actual or potential conflicts of interest to MKSOA staff who will seek guidance regarding recusal from the Authority chair.

V. Meetings

The NRAG shall meet at least 6 times per year, either in person or virtually. The Chair may call additional meetings outside the regular schedule as needed.

VI. Reporting

Initially, the Authority will provide necessary administrative support to the NRAG, including meeting logistics, the preparation of meeting minutes, and the distribution of reports. The NRAG shall submit an annual report to the Authority summarizing its activities, educational initiatives, findings, and non-binding recommendations. This report will be made public, subject to the protection of any sensitive or proprietary information. The NRAG may also submit ad hoc reports on specific topics as requested by the Authority or as deemed necessary by the NRAG.

VII. Term and Review

This charter shall be in effect for a period of 3 years from the date of its approval (following PIG and Board approval). The charter shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the NRAG and MKSOA at the end of this period to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness.