



University of Hawai'i at Hilo
640N. A'hoku Place, Room 203, Hilo Hawai'i 96720
Telephone (808) 933-0734 Fax (808) 933-3208

Mailing Address: 200 W. Kawili Street, Hilo Hawai'i 96720

Stephanie Nagata, Director
Office of Mauna Kea Management
808-933-0734
omkm@hawaii.edu

Maunakea Science Featured at Inaugural Kealakehe Elementary School Science Showcase

Kailua Kona, Hawai'i—(May 4, 2015) When Kealakehe Elementary School kindergarten teacher Candice Travalino approached the Office of Maunakea Management (OMKM) about coming to her school, an idea sparked and soon developed into a full afternoon of Maunakea science for students and their families. After securing the go-ahead from Principal Nancy Matsukawa, Travalino paired the afternoon event in partnership with the school's science fair. OMKM collaborated with the scientific community and together they created hands-on learning stations with activities for students and their families.

Office of Maunakea Management highlighted biological sciences including the unique flora and fauna as well as popular viewings of the bugs found on the mountain. A hands-on ecosystem matching game challenged the students' knowledge of the Maunakea alpine ecosystem and kids got to participate in a hands-on exercise about our solar system. There was a fun, interactive exercise where students answered questions relating to archaeology. Canada France Hawaii Telescope and 'Imiloa Astronomy Center set up a portable planetarium and scheduled 15-minute showings of Polynesian Wayfinding throughout the afternoon. Hawaii Ant Lab had fun ant prevention activities and conducted surveys with parents. Also popular was the booth hosted by UH Hilo Spatial Data Analysis and Visualization Lab with an unmanned aircraft computer simulator. The booth manned by Institute for Astronomy was a true crowd-puller explaining the earth-sun magnetism concept with a hands-on project that had students building magnets.

"The students were so excited to be here, and their parents were very involved. It's just what we imagined the science showcase would be," said event organizer and Kealakehe Elementary School kindergarten teacher Candice Travalino. "We wanted students to be excited about all the scientific work going on right here on our island. Students waiting in a long line to the planetarium was indeed proof we succeeded in our mission."

By the end of the afternoon, the large audience of students and their families left Kealakehe with smiles, wonder and new excitement about scientific discovery. Another Maunakea Science Showcase is in the planning phase for more West Hawaii school students and their families.

About Office of Maunakea Management

The Office of Maunakea Management is charged with day-to-day management of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve as prescribed in the Master Plan. The adoption of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve Master Plan by the University of Hawaii Board of Regents in June 2000 marked a critical milestone in the management of Maunakea.

Meetings and public hearings spanning a period of nearly two years went into the formulation of the Master Plan, which established management guidelines for the next 20 years. The Master Plan reflected the community's deeply rooted concerns over the use of Maunakea, including respect for Hawaiian cultural beliefs, protection of environmentally sensitive habitat, recreational use of the mountain, and astronomy research.

It places the focus of responsibility with the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH). The UH-Hilo Chancellor established the Office of Maunakea Management and the Board of Regents established the Maunakea Management Board in the fall of 2000. The Maunakea Management Board in turn formed Kahu Ku Mauna, a council comprised of Hawaiian cultural resource persons to serve as advisors.



