



OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT NEWS

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Our Mandate: Protecting Mauna Kea's Cultural Resources

He 'ike 'ana ia i ka pono

One has seen the right thing to do and has done it

Mauna Kea is revered by many and a source of awe and inspiration.

One of the Office of Mauna Kea Management's primary missions is to protect, preserve and enhance the cultural resources in University of Hawaii's management areas on Mauna Kea.

Knowing this and wanting to do the right thing, the pono thing, the Office of Mauna Kea Management is guided culturally by Kahu Ku Mauna, a council comprised of Hawaiian cultural resource persons from the island of Hawaii.

The Office of Mauna Kea Management completed its Cultural Resources Management Plan for the UH management areas with the State Board of Land and Natural Resources, the State agency entrusted with the care of Public Trust Lands, unanimously approving the CRMP in March 2010. The Cultural Resources Management Plan provides OMKM with the tools to meet its cultural resource management responsibilities.



Looking from Mauna Kea across the saddle towards Mauna Loa



OMKM Mission

To achieve harmony, balance and trust in the sustainable management and stewardship of Mauna Kea Science Reserve through community involvement and programs that protect, preserve and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Mauna Kea while providing a world-class center dedicated to education, research and astronomy.

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The Office of Mauna Kea Management's major cultural objectives include:

- * Promoting a greater understanding of the rich cultural heritage of Mauna Kea
- * Preserving and managing cultural resources in a sustainable manner so future generations will be able to share in and contribute to a better understanding of the historic properties that exist in the summit region which is of major cultural significance to Hawaiians
- * Maintaining opportunities for Native Hawaiians to engage in cultural practices
- * Preserving the cultural landscape for the benefit of cultural practitioners, researchers, recreationalists, and other users

What's Next?

We have a lot of work to do.

We are presently working on a Burial Treatment Plan for long-term oversight of burials and an archaeological sites monitoring plan. We are working with Kahu Ku Mauna on the development of guidelines and rules that will ensure safe and respectful accommodations for those wishing to engage in cultural practices, and the scattering of cremains. We are also developing guidelines that will discourage "copy-cat" behavior such as the stacking of rocks by those unfamiliar or unaware of the cultural significance and purpose of creating ahu and guidelines for protecting and preserving historical sites.

ABOUT Office of Mauna Kea Management

The Office of Mauna Kea 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 Mauna Kea.

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 Mauna Kea, 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 Mauna Kea Management and the Board of Regents established the Mauna Kea Management Board in the fall of 2000. The Mauna Kea Management Board in turn formed Kahu Ku Mauna, a council comprised of Hawaiian cultural resource persons to serve as advisors.

