



OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT NEWS

August 16, 2012

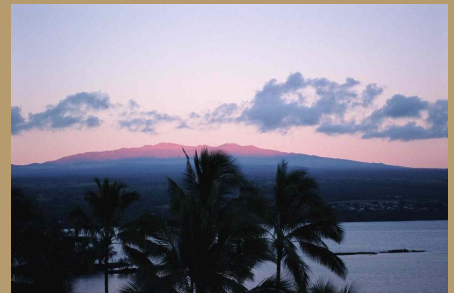
In The Weeds Preserving and Protecting Mauna Kea's Fragile Environment

Nearly 20 community volunteers gave up their Saturday making Mauna Kea their kuleana to pull invasive weeds from the areas surrounding the Onizuka Center for International Astronomy Visitor Information Station at Hale Pohaku.



Long-term plans for this area include native plant restoration and improved educational opportunities about native ecosystems. Removing non-native species from the area helps the Office of Mauna Kea Management to begin this process.

Stewardship is an important educational message for the Office of Mauna Kea Management and a special mahalo goes out to Jesse Eiben of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources' Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences program and Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope Executive Director Doug Simons for sharing their expertise and leading inspirational discussions with the volunteers.



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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Community volunteers included Felice Valmas, Eszter Adany, Dan Birchall, Tera Birchall, Holly Kaakimaka, Jacob Turner, Chuck George, Jon Hurst, Mary Begier, Jesse Eiben, Karun Thanjavur, Megan Tannock, Doug Simons, Chris Simons, Stewart Hunter and OMKM Natural Resources Program Manager Fritz Klasner.

The Office of Mauna Kea Management's Natural Resources Program Management initiative is part of an on-going commitment to preserve and protect Mauna Kea's rare and fragile natural resources.

ABOUT OMKM

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.