



University of Hawai'i at Hilo

640 N. A'ohoku 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

---

**Minutes  
Regular Meeting**

Mauna Kea Management Board  
Wednesday, February 22, 2012

Kukahau'ula, Room 131  
640 N. A'ohoku Place  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

**Attending**

- MKMB:** Chair Barry Taniguchi, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair Patricia Bergin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair/Secretary Ron Terry, Lisa Hadway, Herring Kalua, Gregory Mooers, and Christian Veillet
- OMKM:** Fritz Klasner, Stephanie Nagata and Dawn Pamarang
- Others:** Rob Christensen, Cory Harden, Stewart Hunter, Anna Lucas, Junko Nowaki, Patricia Okamura, Scotty Paiva, Dwight Vicente, Deborah Ward and Xiaoyu Zhang

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Taniguchi called the meeting of the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) to order at 10:00 a.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Upon motion by Gregory Mooers and seconded by Lisa Hadway the minutes of the November 3, 2011 meeting of the MKMB were unanimously approved.

**III. INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT) Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) Contested Case**

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law were submitted by all parties on November 17, 2011. The deadline to submit comments and rebuttals was December 5, 2011. The next step is the hearing officer submittal of his report to the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR). Following the submittal of the report, the BLNR chair can allow the parties up to 21 days to file their comments and an additional 21 days to submit rebuttals to the opposing parties' comments.

**B. Mauna Kea Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) Appeal**

On November 9, 2011 the Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA) heard oral arguments on the CMP. The University argued that there is no statute, rule or law that required a contested case. The petitioners argued that the CMP violated their constitutional right to practice their traditional and customary practices. On January 25, 2012 the ICA issued its opinion concluding that a contested case hearing was not required by law under statute, rule, or constitutional due process and that the CMP did not harm the petitioners.

**C. State House Committee on Higher Education Tour**

In December, the Office and Gemini Observatory hosted members of the House Committee on Higher Education to a tour of Mauna Kea. Prior to heading up to the summit they were given an overview of management of the mountain. Peter Michaud gave a tour of Gemini Observatory. Attending were Chair Scott Nishimoto, Jerry Chang, Mark Nakashima, Faye Hanohano, Aaron Johansen and Jessica Wooley.

**D. 'Imiloa Astronomy Center Tour**

The Office, Institute for Astronomy, and Subaru are hosting a visit to Mauna Kea for the 'Imiloa staff next week Tuesday, February 28. They will be presented with an overview of the history of astronomy and management of the mountain. Subaru has offered a tour of their summit facility.

**E. Commercial Tour Operators - Complaints**

Recently the Office has received complaints concerning commercial tour operators. One complaint involved an unpermitted company taking tours to Mauna Kea. A second complaint came from a tour operator that has no Mauna Kea ties, but who complained that a permitted operator was allowing an unpermitted operator to use his permit to take tours to the mountain. Chief Ranger Paiva and Interim Director Nagata met with the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) representative for clarification on PUC rules. A letter was sent to the unpermitted operator to cease advertising and conducting tours to Mauna Kea. The Office is currently investigating the second complaint.

**F. Transit of Venus**

The transit of Venus will occur on June 5, 2012. Venus will transit across the sun beginning shortly after 12 noon and will end around 6:44 p.m. Being that this event occurs every 105 and 120 years or so, we are anticipating a large crowd and are working on a plan to handle parking, transportation and a large gathering of people. We are also soliciting the help of the commercial tour operators and coordinating our activities and communication with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Civil Defense, police, fire, and Hawaiian Homelands.

**G. Wēkiu Bug Advisory Group**

The group met on February 13, 2012 to discuss the next steps. Members of the group were asked to submit suggestions and ideas to Fritz Klasner. The group will meet in April to prioritize activities. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) explained their rationale for removing the wēkiu bug from the candidate's list. The reason included the range of the bug is more extensive than previously known and that there were a number of plans that provide measures to protect the bug. The Service indicated that threats were being mitigated and managed. The only variable that could not be mitigated was climate change. The Service also explained that they did not consult with other parties such as DLNR because they are required to treat everyone fairly so that everyone will find out at the same time when it is published in the Federal Register. It was emphasized that we know considerably more about the bug than was known a decade ago and that this species is one of the most intensely studied species.

**H. Fritz Klasner**

Interim Director Nagata introduced Fritz Klasner, OMKM's Natural Resources Program Manager. Fritz previously worked at Kenai Fjords National Park in Alaska where for the past 4-1/2 years he was involved in natural resource management with the last two years as Chief of Resource Management. At Kenai he oversaw the natural and cultural resources program for the park. Prior to working at Kenai he worked at Volcanoes National Park as an ecologist for the Pacific Islands Inventory and Monitoring network. His responsibilities at Volcanoes National Park included conducting baseline natural resource inventories and preparing ecological monitoring programs. Fritz has been with us for about a month and has already taken the lead on the development of the invasive species plan, fireweed control, reviewing environmental assessments for the Hawaiian Homelands and the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. Also on his plate is coordinating and developing a botanical monitoring program and working with Jesse Eiben on the invertebrate study.

**IV. KAHU KŪ MAUNA COUNCIL (KKMC)**

No report.

**V. Committee Reports**

**A. Environment Committee**

Dr. Terry invited Fritz Klasner to give the committee report. Tasks the committee is working on include:

1. Invasive species monitoring plan with the Big Island Invasive Species Council (BIISC)
2. A vegetation monitoring plan suggested by Dr. Grant Gerrish
3. Hydrology study and what types of work are needed for hydrologic monitoring to improve the basic knowledge of hydrology on the summit

Deborah Ward, a committee member, added one thing not in the BIISC draft that should be included which is the impact of ungulates on the summit and the Science Reserve itself. The other topic discussed had to do with cats at Hale Pohaku. There is a possibility that cats are impacting the birds. It is important to consider trapping them and removing them. Ms. Ward also encouraged the Board to help explore with the environmental community and with

the Hawaiian community the potential of using Dr. Don Thomas' equipment to learn more about the hydrology on the summit. Dr. Thomas suggested that we consider stakeholders not only within the Mauna Kea Management Board and the Kahu Kū Mauna, but some of the stakeholders that are very concerned about contamination of the groundwater by sewage, hazardous waste and runoff.

Dr. Terry added another topic discussed was the lack of precipitation data. The committee is looking at getting some sort of rain gauge that can handle the conditions on the summit.

Interim Director Nagata stated she has been talking with Dr. Don Thomas and would like to fund him but he is very tied up right now doing geothermal work. We are hoping he can suggest others we could work with. What we would like to do is to be able to engage our students to help with the project.

The Office is working with Dr. Steve Businger who is doing the climate change model for us. He will be helping us determine where we need to put these rain gauges. We will probably need to work with the observatories to have it attached to their facilities. The rain gauges will need to be heated, and, therefore will need to be connected to an electrical outlet.

Stewart Hunter stated they have noticed cats at Hale Pohaku. In early January, they borrowed traps from the Humane Society and also bought one. Five cats were trapped, 2 adults and 3 kittens, and taken to the Humane Society.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) Resource Library**

Patricia Okamura, Junko Nowaki and Xiaoyu Zhang gave a presentation of the OMKM resource library.

Ms. Okamura provided an introduction explaining the library contains about 1,700 items. It includes environmental impact statements and planning documents and information about infrastructure as well. Also included are about 650 monographs, books, documents and other studies. There are also over 950 journal articles. Their work is ongoing. There is so much material out there on Mauna Kea, but some are very difficult to find. Currently they can provide reference service to the public either by email ([omkmlibrary-1@lists.hawaii.edu](mailto:omkmlibrary-1@lists.hawaii.edu)) or by phone 933-3177. Plans are to make the online catalog available to the public by the end of 2012.

Ms. Nowaki gave a presentation on the collection and described the guidelines used to select items to add to the collection:

- The collection started in mid 2003
- Materials added to the collection are appropriate for researchers, serious scholars, as well as university students
- Primary concern is materials relating to the higher elevation of the mountain top for which OMKM is responsible
- Also includes materials about the lower elevations when topics or issues have impact on the higher elevations
- Materials on non-Mauna Kea locations are included when they contribute to a better understanding of Mauna Kea issues and topics

Types of materials collected are:

- Environmental Impact Statements, including drafts
- Various Mauna Kea Plans
- Legal documents
- Videos
- Books, pamphlets/brochures, reports and studies, oral histories
- Journal reprints
- Mitsuo Akiyama archives – a unique collection donated by the Akiyama family to OMKM
- Newspaper index of current Mauna Kea articles in local newspapers

Topics or subjects included are:

- Historical materials from early travelers or visitors to Mauna Kea
- Early Hawaiians and their cultural practices involving the mountain

- Archaeological findings
- Flora and fauna, including alien and invasive species
- Threat of fire on the mountain
- Weather and climatic changes
- Hydrological studies, including Lake Waiau
- High altitude effects on the human body and work performance
- Folklore and legends on Mauna Kea, especially including Poliahu, the Snow Goddess
- Wēkiu Bug
- Endangered native birds

Ms. Zhang described the online catalog in detail and demonstrated how to search on the web based prototype:

- Use Endnote software to organize the records in the catalog
- Catalog consists of three databases: Environmental Impact Statements, monographs, and journal reprints
- Each record has author, title, date, publisher, page numbers, labels, keywords, abstract, notes, URL, etc.

The online catalog of OMKM library resources is currently only a prototype. The website is <http://www.malamamaunakea.org/library/>

**VII. ANNOUCEMENTS**

Dwight Vicente, representing the Hawaiian Kingdom, commented on the notice in the paper regarding burials on Mauna Kea. It referenced these lands as Crown Lands meaning that it is reserved for the use of the crown. The General Lease no. S-4191 is void and invalid. Mr. Vicente’s mission is to protect the integrity of this kingdom while it is being illegally occupied by the United States military.

**VIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18, 2012. There will be no meeting in March.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business Chair Taniguchi adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Signed by Dr. Ron Terry  
Dr. Ron Terry, Secretary, MKMB

6/20/12  
Date