



## **Minutes**

### **Regular Meeting**

Maunakea Management Board

April 16, 2026

Meeting In-Person and Remotely by Zoom

#### **Attending:**

##### **MKMB Members:**

**Present In Person:** Gregory Chun, Andy Adamson

**Present Remotely by Zoom:** Chair Roberta Chu, 2nd Vice Chair Julie Leialoha, Kehau Gomes

**Kahu Kū Mauna:** Excused

**UH:** (CMS) Gregory Chun PhD, Nahua Guilloz, Sarah Clark, Joy Yoshina, Justin Yeh  
(OGC) Erika Strawn  
(VLBA) Walter Brisken

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, 2026. In accordance with Sunshine Law, remote attendees confirmed their locations and noted any individuals present with them (there were none).

#### **II. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There was no written or oral testimony presented.

#### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the March 3, 2026 meeting. A motion was made by Greg Chun to approve the minutes as submitted, and seconded by Kehau Gomes. The motion passed unanimously.

Board member Gomes notified ED Chun before the meeting that she would need to leave the meeting early so ED Chun requested that agenda items requiring board action be presented before his Executive Director's Report, and the items in his ED report would be presented out of order to ensure higher priority updates were covered first. The meeting minutes have been submitted in the order indicated on the agenda, not the order discussed during the meeting.

#### **IV. KAHU KU MAUNA REPORT**

Greg Chun reported on the review process by Kahu Kū Mauna (KKM):

- A. The council expressed enthusiastic support for the Nature Trail site plan and recommended increased acreage for māmane propagation.
- B. The council expressed strong support for the Mills/Lundblad adze research proposal.
- C. ED Chun provided a legislative update and discussed transition issues with Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA). KKM emphasized the importance of ensuring the continuity of existing University of Hawaii plans and rules during the transition period.
- D. Kahu Kū Mauna discussed the upcoming comprehensive EIS that MKSOA will be performing. The council highlighted the importance of ensuring the EIS adequately addresses cultural impacts and ensures the protection of cultural resources.
- E. A retreat is scheduled for May 15–16 at Halepōhaku, potentially including an observatory visit.

#### **V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

ED Chun reported on the following:

##### **A. Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) Transition**

###### **a. Legislative Update (HB 2592 HB1 HB2 SD1 SD2)**

- i. The bill has passed the Senate and is currently in conference committee.
- ii. Includes extending the transition date from June 30, 2028 to December 1, 2029.
- iii. Clarifies that the oversight and interest of MKSOA on the Maunakea lands shall be no more than the University of Hawaii's leasehold interest in the Maunakea lands unless otherwise agreed to by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).
- iv. Authorizes 10-year lease extensions for observatories before the transition date with Chapter 343 exemption, and clarifies that existing rules remain in effect until MKSOA issues revisions.
- v. UH will serve as permittee on any CDUP not transferred to the Maunakea Observatories before the transition date.
- vi. Reversion deadlines:

1. June 30, 2028, MKSOA Management Plan
2. Dec 31, 2029, MKSOA Administrative Rules

**b. UH Mater Plan Amendment Update**

- i. Revisions are underway to align the master plan with Act 255 regarding the reuse of decommissioned astronomy sites.
- ii. Consultant Jim Hayes is identifying necessary plan sections for adjustment, and a community FAQ sheet is in development. Target approval is Fall 2026.

**c. Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Update**

- i. Underground Fuel Storage: The Environmental Assessment (EA) is complete. The project is funded by MKO special assessments, with contract awards expected in early 2027 and work beginning in the summer.

**d. Peter Mills Adze Research Proposal (Information Only)**

- i. Proposal is to conduct non-destructive geochemical analysis of lithics from the Maunakea Adze Quarry to track material distribution.
- ii. Items are individually labeled to facilitate research while preventing further physical disturbance to the land. Results will be presented upon completion.

**e. Very Long Base Array (VLBA) Roof Repair and Paint (Information Only)**

- i. A Type A (maintenance project) involving roof replacement (down to plywood) and exterior repainting of the VLBA facility.
- ii. The Environment Committee requested work take place on calm days using tarps to collect debris. Project lead Walter Brisken confirmed these are standard operating procedures.
- iii. The project has been reviewed by Kahu Kū Mauna and is moving to MKSOA for final review.

**B. Financial Stabilization Plan**

- a. Operational Services (OSTP): A letter agreement for \$4.5M (\$2M for core operations; \$2.525M for additional services) has been approved by the MKSOA Board and is moving to the Board of Regents.
- b. Recent storm damage to roads is estimated at \$200,000; a recovery claim has been filed with FEMA.

**VI. AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Educational Trail Site Plan Application – Justin Yeh (Action Item)**

- a. Justin Yeh presented a plan for a half-mile loop trail at Halepōhaku aimed at native habitat restoration and providing an acclimation activity for visitors.

- b. The plan includes a new greenhouse, projected to increase plant table space by 200–300%, and a dedicated gathering space.
- c. The Board asked about ADA accessibility. While not in the initial plan, it was noted that accessibility requirements may be a factor that will need to be addressed during the planning and permitting process.
- d. A motion to recommend moving forward with the project as submitted was made by Julie Leialoha and second by Kehau Gomes. The motion was approved.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

A motion to enter executive session to consult with the Board’s attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board’s powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities pursuant to HRS §92-5(a)(4), regarding the Board’s decision-making process in its joint-management role with MKSOA, was made by Greg Chun and seconded by Julie Leialoha. The motion passed unanimously, and at 6:22 p.m. the Board moved into an executive session. The session concluded at 7:00 p.m., and the public meeting reconvened at 7:02 p.m. Greg Chun reported that the board and its attorney discussed joint management issues with MKSOA, and that no decisions were made and no votes were taken during the executive session.

## **VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next MKMB public meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Roberta Chu at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sarah Clark  
April 17, 2026