



University of Hawai'i at Hilo
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Minutes Regular Meeting

Maunakea Management Board
Monday, August 10, 2020, 5:00 pm

Virtual Meeting By Zoom

Attending

- MKMB:** Chair Roberta Chu, 1st Vice Chair Doug Simons, 2nd Vice Chair Julie Leialoha, Billy Bergin, Greg Chun, and Diana Van de Car
- BOR/ UH System** Wayne Higaki, Alapaki Nahale-a, Bonnie Irwin, and Gary Takeuchi
- OMKM:** Fritz Klasner and Stephanie Nagata

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Greg Chun and seconded by Julie Leialoha, the minutes of the July 16, 2020 meeting of the MKMB were unanimously approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Cory Harden testified on Items B-1 and B-2. DLNR should be at the top of the chart because of its mission to protect the resources, whereas UH's mission and expertise is education. UH favors telescopes over the protection of cultural and natural resources and its track record of mismanagement led to decades of severe impacts to Maunakea. Ms. Harden stated there was no analysis or consultation as referenced by the Board of Regents Resolution 19-03, Item 9. She asked who was supposed to do the analysis, was it done, and if so, did it follow the requirements? Ms. Harden commended the work and thought involved, but the plans just seem to be reshuffling the same cards when we need a whole new deck of cards.

Herring Kalua testified he served twice on the Maunakea Management Board, first when it was created and when coming to this situation. Mr. Kalua said that if Hawaiians had any problems they should have gone to Kahu Kū Mauna, it is the group that was supposed to handle all that.

Kepa Ka'eo testified he is a concerned father, Hawaiian Kingdom Heir and National and spoke of trauma experienced for several generations of his family. He felt UH was fast tracking this management plan without consulting with the community and beneficiaries and was conspiring with DLNR, DHHL and government officials. He stated that they are looked upon as if they were invisible, but UH should reconvene and talk to their commissioners and community leaders; make room for them at the table. He could not support Greg Chun's plan. It is time to reconcile.

Chair Chu stated written testimonies were timely received from Deborah Ward and Lanny Sinkin and distributed to Board members. Late testimony received from Lori Avila will be uploaded to OMKM's website.

IV. KAHU KŪ MAUNA (KKM) REPORT

Chair Shane Palacat-Nelsen reported the Council participated in joint meetings with the Maunakea Management Board about the management restructuring. The Council's concern is that cultural issues need to be at the center of

executive-level decision-making within the proposed organizational charts. The Council also feels cultural ties and cultural knowledge base needs to be strengthened.

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Annual Monitoring

Director Stephanie Nagata stated this is summertime, when OMKM does its annual monitoring. Last year OMKM was unable to conduct monitoring due to the situation on the mountain and the first-quarter invasive-species monitoring, normally done in March, was halted due to the COVID-19 situation. Fortunately, we regrouped in June. All of the observatories and Halepōhaku facilities have been monitored for invasive species and we are happy to report there were no new threats found at any of the facilities.

Annual arthropod monitoring was conducted in May and June. It took a little longer to conduct this monitoring due to the COVID-19 situation, but monitoring was completed. There were about 400 Wēkiu bugs captured and released. Almost all the life-stages of the bug were found on all the pu'us except for on the one north of VLBA and Pu'upohaku. Good indication that the bug is reproducing. Although no Wēkiu bugs were captured on Pu'upohaku, they were observed while doing hand searches, indicating they are present on this pu'u. No new threats were identified during preliminary screening of the 2020 assessment.

Historic property monitoring was delayed a week due to Hurricane Douglas, but commenced on August 3rd and is planned to continue through the next four weeks. It will take longer than previous years because the teams go out to further sites. Last year we were not able to conduct a complete due to the road closure situation. Now, because of the new 14-day quarantine restriction, it is uncertain if this year's monitoring will be completed.

B. Plant Restoration

Plant restoration around the VIS is going well, with regeneration of māmane and native grasses, including about 250 māmane keiki in the ingress/egress area. OMKM continues to care for and monitor these seedlings. We are very grateful to the Visitor Information Station staff for helping to water the plants, weed the restoration areas, and assist with native out plantings around the VIS. To date, the VIS staff has helped plant over 300 new seedlings. The Rangers have also been very helpful watering the plants since OMKM staff is not up there every day. So, to both the Rangers and VIS staff, we are very grateful for your help.

C. Assistance to Food Basket Food Deliveries

Since early June, OMKM and the Maunakea observatories have offered assistance to the Food Basket by delivering food to those with transportation challenges. To date, over 470 boxes of food have been delivered in the Keaukaha, Hilo, lower Puna, and upper Puna areas. The Food Basket has now asked for help in distributing food in the Keau-Pahoa areas, and groups of volunteers are now stepping up to assist.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS

A. Information and Discussion: Update on the Proposed UH Hilo New Educational Telescope

Dr. Pierre Martin of UH Hilo presented an update on the UH Hilo new educational telescope. Two projects are working in parallel: decommissioning of the Hōkūkea summit telescope; and the new UH educational telescope. Following a long search, Halepōhaku was determined to be the best site for the new telescope. This location is conveniently reached from Hilo and offers superb observing. No vegetation will be removed in construction. The conceptual design includes a modern, 18-foot diameter dome housing a single, 0.7-meter telescope. Both dome and telescope would be installed on a platform measuring about 20 feet by 24 feet and two feet above ground. It will be robotically operated. To lower the observatory height, an alternative is to dig and install a concrete pier to stabilize the telescope, about six foot deep and 30 inches across. This would keep the entire eye within seven feet above ground. There will be no digging for conduits to the dome.

Dr. Martin emphasized these are preliminary design options. A final design is needed to obtain construction funding. At the same time, UH Hilo has had the physical dome and telescope in its possession for years; the installation of the dome could be done in a single day. Recently, the Board of Regents requested UH conduct public consultation to inform the public about what the observatory will do, what it's for, and how big it is. The new telescope will be used by the community and students statewide.

In response to questions, Dr. Martin replied that the dome must be anchored somehow. The current conceptual pier is about 30 inches diameter and six feet deep, but could be narrower and shallower. Digging could be avoided, but anchoring via pier is the traditional way to mount a telescope. Some digging is needed to properly set the pier footing, similar to a post and pier home. The deck is the same as one designed and manufactured for houses.

Dr. Martin also stated they can have a design by the end of 2020 and proceed to permitting, with a final completion date around mid-2023. Chancellor Irwin commented that a procurement issue arose with the current freeze on purchasing. She hopes to turn it around soon and get things moving again.

B. Action Item: Review and determine action to be taken on the University's proposed internal management restructuring plan prepared in response to the Board of Regents Resolution 19-03, Section

Dr. Chun stated this was a Board of Regents initiative to bring together all UH management functions to a single organization located at UH Hilo. The Regents want to clarify lines of responsibility, authority and decision-making which are currently split between UH Mānoa, vis-à-vis IFA, and OMKM. Dr. Chun stated outreach was made directly to some of the kia'i leadership, who then assisted him in getting input from some of the other key leaders. Most of their comments focused on the alternative management structures [Resolution 19-03, item number 9] and not so much on reorganizing the existing management structure. He also reached out to kia'i leadership on Hawai'i Island but got no response.

Chair Chu discussed MKMB's alternative Maunakea restructuring plan, which is simpler plan aimed at keeping what works compared to UH's plan. Aside from moving the VIS and educational outreach to 'Imiloa, MKMB's alternative does not change and mostly keeps intact the MKSS component.

Ms. Leialoha commented this has been a really difficult process. She does not see how integrating OMKM and MKSS into the Office of Executive Director would work. She asked Dr. Simons what the observatories think of this. Before responding to Ms. Leialoha's question, Dr. Simons asked Dr. Chun if other revisions to UH's plan was anticipated before it goes to the Regents for a vote.

Dr. Chun stated he made more adjustments based on input from the observatories and the MKMB's alternative model. He will try to advocate for these changes but President Lassner still needs to review changes before the meeting notice is posted on Friday. Dr. Chun was not able to get input to update the plan in time for today's MKMB meeting.

Dr. Simons thanked Dr. Chun for the update. He thanked Regent Chair Kudo for allowing 90 days deferral on the matter, which allowed the observatories to sort things out. Dr. Simons said the proposal is better than what was originally suggested in April, but it still falls short of getting observatory support. Dr. Simons stated observatories prefer that IFA retain its role as co-PI on Maunakea Support Services. He thinks the observatories have made it clear they are the principle sponsors for astronomy on Maunakea and have pumped millions of dollars over the years. They appreciate a parallel voice to MKMB for strategic planning directly to the UH Chancellor. This improves the advisory structure.

Dr. Simons posed a question to Regents Higaki and Nahale-a: Is the time and effort worth the perceived benefit? The 19-03 Reso started this in a lot of ways. The audit was mostly a product of an audience to the Board of Regents, so only they can answer the question: Does it meet their needs of transparency, efficiency, et cetera? There is complexity in what we do today that is buried in the proposal and wonders if they have the time to understand and make judgement. The biggest concern the observatory directors have that goes back a couple of years with meetings with President Lassner, is the proposed merger of Maunakea Support Services (MKSS) as opposed to a transfer of function. The observatories prefer to keep MKSS distinct, which you see in the MKMB proposed alternative, and Greg tried to mitigate this by identifying a shared administrative staff and shared cost. The work that MKSS does is cost-effective and responsive. What problem is being solved by forcing MKSS into a non-natural mix? Compared to the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) - land-management aspect of the organizational chart, as Julie hinted, it's not obvious how MKSS meshes into that. Dr. Simons also stated he is concerned about implementation during financial constraints caused by COVID-19. The Regents' commitment will determine the ultimate success or not of this whole process. He concluded the timing is not great but he remains focused on the master lease renewal and all the steps required to ensure a future for Maunakea astronomy, hand-in-hand with the community and other interests in Maunakea. There is a staggering amount of work to do to achieve these goals. He looks forward to putting this behind us to work on UH's future role as land manager, Maunakea astronomy, and creative and constructive community inclusion.

Ms. Leialoha commented she agrees with Mr. Palacat-Nelsen about the lack of cultural concerns, in both Greg's version of the reorganization and this Board's alternative. She referred to Reso 19-03, "Whereas" number seven, which specifically states the "update will accommodate uses by Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners." This is not really addressed in either Greg's plan or the alternative and needs to be more fully considered.

Ms. Van de Car agreed with Ms. Leialoha and stated some of Kahu Kū Mauna's concerns are not being listened to. She suggested Greg address this in the plan. She added the division of responsibilities for the mountain among the various entities is not clear to the public. Things may be working well from the board's standpoint, but the view from the outside is different, to the point where there is now a vocal segment of the community opposed to further telescope development on the mountain. Better communication and clarity for the public on who is responsible for what between and among the various agencies will help. Clearer management lines with one person holding responsibility is a step forward.

Dr. Bergin commented he appreciated Ms. Van De Car's perspective and agrees that a go-to person in any organization is a necessary and basic component. There has to be authority in the structure. He stated that when we speak of UH, it is a land grant, sea grant and space grant institution. This is a highly positive image, however, he does not sense enthusiasm and support from the three bodies – Kahu Kū Mauna, MKMB and MKO – for this internal reorganization. He is not happy with the fact that these three entities have worries that may take away from the University's image. These things have to be done, but he also feels rushing this would be very harmful. Dr. Bergin referenced 2000, when the unifying theme was that Hilo will continue to be the center UH administration for Maunakea. He also stated the Hawaiian community wants a place in front of the table as more than just advisory, and that this will be an uphill battle.

Ms. Van de Car stated this made a lot of sense. The community has a huge amount of unhappiness. Instead of proposing a different management change, she wants to ask the Regents to improve community input and clarify who is responsible for what.

Chair Chu expressed hesitation and uncertainty, and asked what can this Board say to the Regents by next Monday for their meeting on August 20th? She stated there has been a lot of proposed changes and amendments to the plan, but right now we do not know what that looks like. She also stated the University is revising the Master Plan and she has no idea what that looks like, either. There has not been enough time or transparency about the whole process.

Dr. Chun responded to Chair Chu's concerns. He stated that the MKMB and Kahu Kū Mauna were always intended to be the first line of communication with the community and cultural needs. If that is not working, then what has to happen, and how do we improve community engagement? The restructuring is intended to stimulate this, if we want to recapture our position at the table. The world is different now from 20-plus years ago. We need to look at how we define our role and how we operate. In speaking with Regent Chair Kudo, if something was put forward that achieves the Regents' objectives, then Chair Kudo might reconsider. Dr. Chun stated that the changes he has made are at the edges, and everything in terms of rolling up to one person stays the same, and the bringing together of OMKM and MKSS remains the same. Dr. Chun stated if we want everything managed here on the Big Island, then consider that MKSS currently reports to IFA Mānoa, not UH Hilo. Number two, there is a way to keep those operations amid funding concerns. This is a management issue, not a structural issue. He concluded by stating this is just one step to achieve uniformity and how people choose to operate, in terms of engaging the community and cultural practitioners, is a bigger challenge.

Chancellor Irwin commented the Board's third option is not do anything. Since Greg has made changes, this is considered consultation, which fulfills the Regents' process.

Dr. Bergin moved to enter Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Simons. The motion carried unanimously. Regent Nahale-a and Higaki recused themselves from Executive Session.

C. Executive Session

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), on the University's proposed restructuring of the internal management of Maunakea.

Continuation of Agenda Item B, Review and determine action to be taken on the University's proposed internal management restructuring plan prepared in response to the Board of Regents Resolution 19-03, Section
Chair Chu recommended a change to the Board's alternative model by adding to the Executive Director's box the responsibility for a cultural component.

It was moved by Doug Simons and seconded by Julie Leialoha that to approve the alternative model and to authorize Chair Chu to submit testimony including the alternative model with an amendment to the Executive Director's box the responsibility for a cultural component. The motion was carried 5 in favor with Greg Chun voting against.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

MKMB will hold meetings on the first Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Chu adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Signed by Julie Leialoha
Julie Leialoha, Secretary, MKMB

September 2, 2020
Date