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Mauna Kea Management Board  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, August 21, 2001  
Institute for Astronomy, Room 131  
640 N. A'ohoku Place  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

### Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Members Present:** Arthur Hoke, Chair; Barry Taniguchi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair/Secretary; Heather Cole; and Jim Kennedy

**Kahu Kū Mauna Members Present:** Ululani Sherlock, Ed Stevens

**Interim OMKM Staff Present:** Walter Heen, Arnold Hiura and Stephanie Nagata

**Others Present:** Claude Berthoud, Ron Koehler, Ron Laub, Wendy Light, Antony Schinckel

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hoke called the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) meeting to order on August 21, 2001 at 9:30 a.m.

#### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Jim Kennedy and seconded by Barry Taniguchi that the minutes of the July 31, 2001 meeting of the MKMB be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### Briefing for the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR)

In conjunction with the BLNR's Hilo meeting, OMKM was asked to present a short briefing on the Mauna Kea Science Reserve Master Plan. OMKM presented a short Power Point program:

- Program began with a brief history of prior management plans and the Legislative Auditor's 1998 report which led to the preparation of the current Master Plan.
- Creation of the Office, MKMB, Kahu Kū Mauna Council and roles and responsibilities of each entity. Together in partnership they manage Mauna Kea.
- Current practices involve development of partnerships and community involvement and input in the management of Mauna Kea.
- Discussed salient features and drawbacks to implementing the Master Plan – i.e. Design Review Process, multiple management jurisdiction, and lack of OMKM's enforcement authority.
- A point was made that in order to efficiently and properly manage the mountain, DLNR needs to turn over management and enforcement authority to UH.

The briefing also included a tour to the summit and a tour of the Keck observatory.

Director Heen will be meeting with Sam Lemmo of the Land Division to discuss the transfer of management authority to UH. He indicated the transfer should not pose a major problem since transferring authority from one state agency to another (e.g. DLNR and UH) has been carried out in the past. For example, the 1995 Management Plant transferred from UH to DLNR control over commercial tour operations. (Note in December 2000, BLNR returned this control back to UH, subject to the Attorney General's opinion allowing this transfer.)

Control of Access. Mr. Stevens indicated that although Nelson Ho continues to raise objections to installing a kiosk, Mr. Ho does recognize its advantages. Mr. Ho also believes the presence of a kiosk may be misinterpreted as a means for keeping people out rather than providing a public safety measure. According to Mr. Stevens, if Mr. Ho is given assurances that the public will not misinterpret the presence of a kiosk he may reconsider his position on having a kiosk. Whatever action is taken it must consider that the public may deem a kiosk as an inappropriate denial of access. Caution is necessary not to go overboard.

At some point limiting the number of vehicles and a system for transporting people must be addressed. The Master Plan suggests the implementation of a shuttle system, perhaps even from the Saddle Road. This is a matter the Planning Committee will need to address.

A gate at the kiosk might be too intimidating. The National Park Service, for example, does not have a gate. Since the area is designated public land, UH cannot prevent people from going to other parts of the mountain. UH's management authority covers only the Science Reserve and Hale Pohaku.

UH Authority. Even if DLNR were to transfer full authority and enforcement control to UH, the Science Reserve and Hale Pohaku are on conservation land and UH would still be required to obtain CDU Permits for certain types of projects. It was further suggested that it may be more beneficial that the State transfer land title to UH so that UH can then treat it as another campus.

### **Pu 'u Poli'ahu Road Closure**

The road on Pu 'u Poli'ahu was closed effective Thursday, August 16, 2001. In addition to scarifying the road to create a more "natural" look, boulders were placed across the former roadway. The unveiling of the road closure sign was held on Monday, August 20, 2001. The sign reads as follows:

Pu 'u Poli'ahu  
Hawaiian Sacred Site  
Closed to Vehicles

State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) raised concerns over possible disturbance of archeological sites and whether a Conservation District Use Permit (CDUP) should have been obtained prior to scarifying the road. SHPD will be sending an archeologist to survey the area adjacent to the road. Land Division's initial thinking was that the scarifying of the road might be considered a maintenance activity. OMKM would eventually like to have the road reduced to a footpath, in which case a CDUP will most likely be required.

Antony Schinkel reported a car speeding by Smithsonian's Submillimeter Array site and a car driving up Pu'u Poli'ahu after first removing some small rocks placed across the road to stop vehicles from venturing further. He was not able to get a license number. Barry Taniguchi asked about procedures for handling or tracking down these types of drivers, and whether it was possible

to contact the County (or car rental agencies) to get the names of the drivers if the car license number is obtained.

### **President Concurs with Board's Recommendations on UST and Outriggers Project Designation**

President Dobelle concurred with Chancellor Tseng's and the Board's recommendations to proceed with the removal of the underground storage tank and the designation of Major Project Status for the Keck/NASA Outrigger Telescope project. The next step is to assist the President with establishing a Design Review Committee.

### **Range/guide Report**

A copy of the Ranger/guide report for July 15 – August 11, 2001 is attached. In summary:

- Vehicle activity continues to be heavier in the afternoon and evenings.
- The ratio of 4-wheel to 2-wheel drive vehicles is approximately 3.5: 1.
- There were 5 reports of unlicensed commercial activity. Four of the five involved the use of a Harper Rental by foreign tours. The fifth incident involved a PUC licensed commercial vehicle. With respect to the foreign visitors, it may be the case of not knowing a permit is required.
- Group visits to observatories. Several prearranged groups tours to observatories were reported. They may be educational in nature, but OMKM will need to look into developing policies and procedures on handling these types of tours – to avoid ranger/guides from citing them with unlicensed activities.
- Hiking at the summit appears to be a popular activity, especially during the evening hours. Many of the hikers are most likely associated with the commercial tours venturing to the summit for sunset viewing.

### **Smithsonian Submillimeter Array.**

OMKM received a copy of a letter from IfA to DLNR requesting a time extension for completion of construction on Smithsonian's Submillimeter Array. The extension is from November 18, 2001 to November 18, 2002. Under Hawai'i Administrative Rules, HAR 13-5-43(b), a CDU Permit holder is allowed to extend the time period allowed to comply with the conditions of its permit.

The extension is needed to complete the finishing work on its pads, in particular the application of a grout between the steel plates and concrete bases. Completion of the finishing work has been delayed primarily because of a study and testing of the stiffness of the pads on which the antennas sit and the long-term performance of the grout. Smithsonian is sufficiently satisfied with the overall results of its test and is proceeding with the completion of the project, but anticipates it will require another year to complete.

IfA and Smithsonian are not requesting any new elements be added to its CDU Permit. It is only asking for an extension of time to its existing permit.

### **Subaru Expansion.**

OMKM received notice that Subaru wants to expand its facilities to incorporate a visitor gallery and access to the gallery. Before this project is formally presented to the Board for its recommendation on project status, the office will be contacting Subaru for more information.

### **President Dobelle's Visit to Mauna Kea**

President Dobelle and Regent Ikawa visited the IfA building on August 17 on their way to Mauna Kea where they met with Ed Stevens. Mr. Stevens gave them a tour pointing out and explaining the various archeological sites and cultural significance of Mauna Kea.

### **New Director of Mauna Kea Astronomy Education Center (MKAEC)**

Met with the new Director of MKAEC, George Jacob. Mr. Jacob has a number of interesting ideas, but needs to be apprised on cultural matters. OMKM offered its help.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Amendment of By-Laws**

Director Heen pointed out that Article III, Section 3.1 of the MKMB Bylaws, *Appointment, Number of Members and Terms* requires revision. The following sentence should be deleted:

“Members serve at the pleasure of the Chancellor of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo whom reserves the right to remove or suspend for cause any member after due notice.”

and replaced with:

“Members may be removed by the Board of Regents for cause after due notice. The Board may receive such a recommendation for removal from the Chancellor of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo.”

Mr. Taniguchi suggested that since the Bylaws was being amended it should include the current address for the Office which was left blank at the time the Bylaws were originally approved.

It was moved by Jim Kennedy and seconded by Barry Taniguchi that the Bylaws be amended to reflect the change to Section 3.1 and include the addition of OMKM’s address. The motion was carried unanimously with all four members present voting aye.

## **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Tour of Mauna Kea with Ed Stevens**

Ed Stevens stated on behalf of Kahu Kū Mauna, he thanked the Board and OMKM for their part in making the Pu‘u Poli‘ahu road closure a reality. He also thanked Ron Koehler and the MKSS staff for scarifying the road and erecting the sign.

Mr. Stevens presented a summary of the Mauna Kea tour with President Dobelle. Mr. Stevens gave the President and Regent Ikawa a complete tour of the cultural aspects. He had good feelings about the President who was very open and sharing of his thoughts. He believes his tenure at UH will be positive. President Dobelle indicated he was not a micromanager but after his tour and orientation he would be keeping his eye on Mauna Kea. President Dobelle is looking at possibilities of how astronomy can work together with the cultural and other interests on the mountain.

President Dobelle is also open to changing the name of the IfA Building to one which includes the name Mauna Kea, and further wondered why there was no indication of the University’s presence at Hale Pohaku.

### **Access and Gate**

Ron Laub felt an electronic gate at the kiosk might not be a good idea because it would require tenants and their employees to carry access cards. He suggested a set up similar to the kiosk at Volcanoes National Park: 1) no gate; 2) one sign listing fees; and 3) a second sign for posting messages. It was pointed out that the National Park does not staff its kiosk after 5:00 p.m. (when

visitor traffic decreases) after which time anyone can enter the Park. However, since activity increases on Mauna Kea after 5:00 p.m., the National Park set-up may not be appropriate for our situation.

Other factors to consider are cost, the presence of rangers and the occurrence of nighttime incidents. Nighttime incidents are rare and the presence of a gate might create potential problems. Further, the staffing of a gate or kiosk is very expensive therefore the installation of a gate must be carefully reviewed. It was also suggested a welcome sign at the kiosk might alleviate some potential problems.

Ron Koehler offered a suggestion that a FM station be established to broadcast Mauna Kea related information, including hours of operations, public safety and cultural information. MKSS now runs a chain (which is not locked) just above the paved road leading from Hale Pohaku if conditions warrant it. It has been effective in keeping traffic off the summit area during hazardous conditions. During the winter, the public can call a designated phone number and listen to a taped message containing the latest snow and road condition information.

It was also suggested a sign be placed at the junction of the Saddle Road and the Mauna Kea access road to warn people of road conditions before making the long drive to Hale Pohaku.

#### **Hale Pohaku**

Antony Schinckel explained that the perception of the lack of presence of the University of Hawaii at Hale Pohaku is probably because 90% of Hale Pohaku was developed (and is maintained) by the observatories. Mr. Stevens recognized the situation but still felt the University should be accorded some recognition.

#### **VI. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date is September 25, 2001, Institute for Astronomy Building, Room 131, 9:30 a.m.

#### **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hoke adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Signed by Barry Taniguchi

Barry K. Taniguchi, Secretary, MKMB

September 25, 2001

Date