



University of Hawai'i at Hilo

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**Minutes
Regular Meeting**

Mauna Kea Management Board
Tuesday, August 9, 2011

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

Attending

- MKMB:** Chair Barry Taniguchi, 1st Vice Chair Patricia Bergin, 2nd Vice Chair/Secretary Ron Terry, Herring Kalua, and Christian Veillet
- Kahu Kū Mauna:** Chad Kalepa Baybayan and Tiffnie Kakalia
- OMKM:** Stephanie Nagata and Dawn Pamarang
- Others:** David Byrne, Rob Christensen, Linda Fisher, Grant Gerrish, Stewart Hunter, Ann Iwashita, Gregory Mooers, Scotty Paiva, Mike Robinson, Rima Rocha, Dwight Vicente, and Peter Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Taniguchi called the meeting of the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon motion by Ron Terry and seconded by Christian Veillet the minutes of the June 28, 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

Preparations continue for the TMT CDUA contested case hearings. A site visit to the mountain is scheduled for August 11. Hearings commence on August 15 and continue through August 18. With the exception of August 16, the hearings will be held at the State Building in conference rooms A and B. The August 16th meeting will be held at Hawaii Community College in building 388, room 101. The start time is 9:00 am.

B. Pohakuloa Training Area (PTA) High-Altitude Mountainous Environmental Training (HAMET)

The Army, through the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), invited members of the public to participate in a helicopter tour of the landing zones proposed for their high altitude mountainous environment training (HAMET). Three landing zones are located just outside the southwestern boundary of the Science Reserve and the other three are located on the northwestern slopes of Mauna Loa. They flew the same flight pattern described in the environmental assessment (EA.). From Interim Director Nagata's perspective, who was observing from another helicopter, it did not appear that the rotors generated much dust. The landings were soft and did not seem to have much of a physical impact.

Ron Terry, who was on the helicopter that landed, added there was a little bit of dust, not significant, but it was obvious. He also noted that some of the landing zones were very close to the road on the Mauna Loa side. DLNR has not decided whether they are going to close off access to parts of the mountain. This came as a surprise to him because the EA stated the Army would not be closing off access. What they really meant was that the Army has no

intention to close off the access and, further, they did not have the authority close off the access. DLNR stated they did not decide yet what to do about closing off access. This is a major concern for him.

Chad Kalepa Baybayan also participated in the helicopter tour and added he did not see any major concerns on the Mauna Kea. On the Mauna Loa side there are some concerns because of it being close to the road.

C. Fireweed Control

At the July 6th Environment Committee meeting members of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) were invited to discuss fireweed control. Because fireweed readily disperses and is fairly widespread, especially along the Saddle Road and at Hale Pohaku, herbicide control is the most reasonable option for controlling it. The rangers have been removing it along the summit access road, including the summit region. The committee also felt it would be good to communicate with the Department of Transportation to get them to comply with its environmental assessment and spray herbicide along the Saddle Road.

D. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) – Chinese Media Familiarization Astronomy Tour

On July 14th the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) assisted the Lt. Governor's office with coordinating a familiarization tour of Mauna Kea for a group of Chinese print and film media. The tour began with an orientation at 'Imiloa before heading to Hale Pohaku. Following lunch they were given an overview of the management of the mountain, astronomy on Mauna Kea and the TMT project. They were given a tour of Canada-France-Hawaii Telescope by Director Christian Veillet and a tour of Gemini by Doug Simons.

E. Hale Pohaku Roofing Project

Mauna Kea Support Services is re-roofing all the mid-level facilities except for the construction cabins. The project will take about 4- 5 months to complete.

F. Tropical Alpine Ecosystem Symposium

OMKM is working with Dr. Jim Juvik of the UH Hilo Geography Department on the development of an international symposium on tropical alpine ecosystems. It is being planned for August 2012. Preliminary thoughts are that there will be about 30 presenters who are studying alpine and tropical alpine ecosystems, as well as managers of these types of ecosystems. It will be the first of its kind. The purpose is to begin networking with experts in the field to tackle some of the common challenges in managing and protecting these ecosystems. OMKM and the Moore Foundation are co-funding this symposium.

G. Vacant Positions Recruitment

Advertisements for both the Natural Resources & Environmental Program Manager and the Cultural Coordinator positions have been published in the newspapers and online on the UH website. The closing date to apply is August 18. Interviews will be scheduled for the end of August and beginning of September.

IV. KAHU KŪ MAUNA COUNCIL (KKMC)

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Wednesday, August 10.

V. Committee Reports

A. Environment Committee

Dr. Terry reported the committee met with BIISC and Jim Leary on July 6th regarding fireweed control. He called the Federal Highway Administration about controlling fireweed on the Saddle Road. Federal Highways contacted the Hawaii Department of Transportation (DOT) and Herring Kalua at DOT, and action was taken. BIISC is also working on an invasive species control program for us.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 24 to discuss geographic information system (GIS) mapping needs and processes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Baseline Botanical Survey – Dr. Grant Gerrish

Dr. Grant Gerrish gave an info briefing of his baseline botanical study of the UH's managed lands on Mauna Kea. His survey is based on the recommendations made in the Natural Resources Management Plan. Dr. Gerrish, along with seven field technicians and a lichen crew of four are doing the survey work.

Study Areas and Survey Priorities:

- a. Astronomy Precinct + 500 meter buffers: High intensity survey
- b. Hale Pohaku: High intensity survey

- c. Access Road + 400 meter buffers: Medium intensity survey
- d. Natural/Cultural Preservation Area: Reconnaissance survey

Representative findings include native plants and introduced plants such as fireweed. The next phase is to establish a monitoring system.

B. Aina Mauna Legacy Program – Mike Robinson

Mike Robinson, Land Manager with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, along with Peter Young, consultant, gave a presentation on the progress of their Aina Mauna Legacy Program. The Aina Mauna Legacy Program was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission in December 2009. The two primary goals of this 56,000 acre contiguous parcel is to 1) develop an economically self-sustaining improvement and conservation program and 2) develop an outreach program to gain interest, participation and support. The program has three types of projects: 1) conservation, 2) income generating, and 3) homesteading. Mr. Robinson also gave an update on the Aina Mauna Fire Plan.

C. Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SMA) Request

Background

On December 3, 2002, the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) approved SMA's request to install one Hungarian-made Automated Telescope (HAT) instrument on the rooftop of its summit facility. OMKM recently received a request from SMA to install two new HAT instruments on the rooftop of its summit facility. In reviewing this project, it was discovered that two HATs were installed in December 2002, not just the one that was approved by the MKMB. There is nothing in the record that indicates approval to install two HATS.

Project Summary

The HAT instruments are fully automated wide-field sky monitors that record the brightness of distance stars. HATs are used to discover planets around stars by measuring tiny decreases in a star's brightness when a planet passes in front of it. The two HATs that are on the SMA summit facility have contributed to the discovery of more than 30 transiting extra solar planets. HATS work in pairs and are placed around the world and require a wide geographic dispersions to provide a continuous daily record of stellar variability without any daytime or nighttime gaps. The Hawaii HATS are paired with the HATS in Arizona. The installation of the two new HATS will increase the HATNet productivity by 200%. High precision of one percent accuracy in the measurement of light intensity is needed, thus exceptionally good astronomical sites such as Mauna Kea are essential to the project. Weather instruments are used in conjunction with the HATS to help increase the robustness of the HATNet.

HAT Instrument

- The HAT instrument is a 4" aperture, wide-angle Canon telephoto lens that can fit into someone's two palms.
- Similar to the first two HATs, the two new ones will be encased in an enclosure that is about 30" high, by 30" X 34".
- HAT enclosures will be painted the same color as the SMA hanger building.
- They will be placed on the roof of the SMA summit facility adjacent to the existing two HATs.
- The weather instruments include a Vaisala WXT510 weatherhead (approximately 5" X 5" X 5") and a cloud detector (3" X 3" X 6").

Impacts

- Neither the HATs nor the weather instruments will be visible from the ground.
- HATNet is fully robotic and does not require human interference, except for maintenance purposes.

Kahu Kū Mauna Council

On July 13, 2011, the Council reviewed the proposal and did not find this project objectionable. They did, however, express their frustration over the piecemeal approach to the various projects proposed by SMA in the past. They would like to see all observatories, not just SMA, do a review of their operational needs for a given period of time, for example, three years, and identify to the extent possible anticipated projects that would require OMKM, KKMC and MKMB review. These plans would then be submitted to the Council for their review and comment. This would also provide feedback to the observatories on how best to proceed, thus assisting them with the execution of their projects.

Mitigation Measures

- The HAT enclosures will be painted the same color as the summit hangar.
- Weather data will be posted on the internet and will be available to the public

- Interim Director Nagata added because the second HAT instrument was installed without approval from the Board, as another mitigation measure SMA is being requested to repaint their pads in color that better matches the surrounding landscape.

OMKM Recommendation

OMKM recommends the Board classify this entire project, which is the installation of the four HAT instruments and ancillary weather instruments, Minimal Impact; grant an after-the-fact approval of the second HAT unit; and grant approval to extend this project another five years following the installation of the two new HAT units; and allow the applicant to proceed. OMKM's recommendation is based on the following:

- The proposed activity does not significantly impact the surrounding environment.
- The proposed structure will be installed on an existing building.
- No excavation is involved.
- There are no archaeological sites near the proposed site.
- It will not impact wēkiu bug habitat.
- The installation is temporary.
- The weather data will be made available to the public on the internet.

Conditions

OMKM recommends the following conditions:

1. Submit copies of correspondence between the applicant and DLNR.
2. If a DLNR permit is issued submit a copy to OMKM.
3. If applicable, comply with conditions of the DLNR Permit.
4. Notify OMKM when it will commence summit construction activities.
5. Adhere to the mitigation measures described above and in the applicant's proposal.
6. Allow OMKM rangers to visit and monitor installation activities.
7. Notify OMKM upon completion of the project.

Action

It was moved by Ron Terry and seconded by Herring Kalua to accept OMKM's recommendation to classify this entire project Minimal Impact; grant an after-the-fact approval of the second HAT unit; grant approval to extend this project another five years following the installation of the two new HAT units; with all mitigation measures as recommended. The motion was carried unanimously.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Board members will be polled for future meeting dates.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Taniguchi announced today would have been John Cross' last meeting as his term expires August 31, 2011. Unfortunately he could not make it today. At this time Gregory Mooers was introduced. Mr. Mooers will be filling Mr. Cross' position effective September 1, 2011.

Dwight Vicente, representing the Hawaiian Kingdom, stated that indigenous, aboriginal, native and Indian people have no genuine legal rights. They are subject to colonial power. In this regard, the Akaka Bill and so-called State Recognition Bill reduces Hawaiians back to natives, meaning uncivilized – with no political rights.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business Chair Taniguchi adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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

11-3-11
Date