Thank you for attending our Open House on the forthcoming University of Hawaii Administrative Rules. While the enclosed questions are optional to answer, we are seeking your valued comments and feedback. Do not feel you need to answer all the questions, but just those you wish to offer comment. We also welcome all comments or suggestions you may have to generate rules to help protect the natural, cultural and scientific resources on UH’s managed lands on Maunakea as well as maintain the safety and welfare of all who visit Maunakea. When done, please place survey in a comment box or mail by July 13, 2015 to:

Office of Maunakea Management
200 West Kawili Street
Hilo, HI 96720
Fees
Every visitor has an impact on Maunakea. Visitors use water, restroom facilities, trash receptacles, and the summit access road. Over the past several years the number of vehicles and people visiting Maunakea has increased considerably. Concern for the health and safety of visitors has resulted in the need to increase services, such as the Maunakea ranger corps. Rangers are on duty 365-days a year and assist and educate visitors on how to visit the mountain safely and responsibly, manage traffic, respond and administer first aid, engage in search and rescue efforts and advise people on how to drive down the steep road. In addition, studies are needed to assess the condition of the resources including archaeological sites, and native plants and animals, and the monitoring of invasive species that could harm native populations. These services are currently provided at no charge to the general public.

Do you think people should be charged a fee for visiting Maunakea?

- Yes
- No

Reason
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

a. If yes, who should be charged? _______________________________________________________

b. If no, what is your reason or reasons for not charging? ______________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Memorialization
People have a tendency to leave items to memorialize a person or significant life event and generally do not return to claim or clean up the items. These memorials may encourage others to imitative behavior and the items eventually become debris littering the landscape. This is disrespectful to the cultural landscape and not understood or appreciated by the general public. With the exception of cultural practices which will be accommodated, it is prohibited to leave such offerings.

Do you think it is reasonable within the Science Reserve to prohibit memorializations of the kind described above?

- Yes
- No

Reason
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________________
Four-wheel-drive (4WD) vehicles only above Halepōhaku

Half of the summit road is unpaved, with several switchbacks and blind curves. The road is steep and requires frequent grading. Two-wheel-drive (2WD) vehicles are not designed to drive on steep, unimproved roads and do more harm to the road compared to 4WD. Generally, neither 2WD nor all-wheel-drive (AWD) vehicles are equipped with low-range gear. Low-range is on 4WD vehicles and uses the engine to slow the speed of the car, whereas the use of brakes is still required in other types of passenger vehicles. Rangers and VIS staff attempt to inform visitors operating 2WD and AWD vehicles of ways to avoid common problems. However, visitors still experience brake overheating, brake failure, engine overheating, fluid leak, breakdown (undetermined cause), flat tires, and becoming stuck off-road. The rules may also address use of properly-licensed and registered vehicles.

Do you feel it is reasonable to only require the use of 4WD vehicles above Halepōhaku?

Yes   No

Reason_______________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Proper use of the Summit Access Road excludes speeding, parking and off-road travel

Several road warnings and speed limit signs are posted along the summit access road, yet visitors are frequently observed driving faster than the posted speed limit near the VIS, in switchbacks and blind curves, and on the summit cinder roads. Speeding in these areas generates dust and potentially endangers casual hikers and workers or equipment. Drivers often stop in the roadway and must be reminded to park safely and out of active traffic lanes for sight-seeing and picture-taking. Visitors also attempt to go off-road and become stuck in the loose cinders, damaging the landscape. Staying on the road and using appropriate parking areas, except in emergency situations, minimizes impacts to the surrounding natural and cultural landscape.

Is it reasonable to restrict public and commercial vehicular traffic to designated roads?

Yes   No

Is it reasonable to set speed limits?

Yes   No

Is it reasonable to park only in designated areas?

Yes   No
Visiting Hours
After sunset, the summit region is very dark, temperatures drop to near or below freezing, and rangers do not patrol the summit access road. Observatories are transitioning to remote viewing and personnel will not be onsite after dark. Across much of the summit region, the terrain obstructs cellular signals and radio coverage. If left on, cellular phone batteries are frequently drained due to roaming activity, and you may be unable to call out in the event of a real emergency. At the same time, emergency services are far away and may be further delayed or blocked due to the steep terrain and hazardous weather.

For health and safety purposes, the University may need to post visiting hours. Do you think this is a good rule?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Reason

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Road and Area Closures
Maunakea weather is extreme and can become threatening to life or property within minutes. Rangers monitor weather and the current criteria to determine whether to close the summit access road are when any of the following occurs: winds are greater than 55 mph for one hour, or gusts exceed 65 mph (following guidelines by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service, Honolulu Weather Forecast Office, and management policy of Haleakalā National Park); snow or ice is on the road; visibility is less than 50 feet; wide loads will use the summit road; and/or any emergent condition exists that makes the road unsafe for travel. Following the determination to close the road, rangers conduct summit area sweeps to notify and evacuate visitors. The University must also consider the health and safety of its employees. Once closure criteria no longer exist, rangers work as quickly as possible to reopen the road.

With the increasing visitor numbers, roads or areas of the UH management lands may also require temporary closure to allow a natural resource to rejuvenate, to conduct maintenance activities, to carry out scientific research, or for safety concerns.

Do you feel it is reasonable to close the road for the reasons stated above?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No
Do you feel it is reasonable to close off areas for reasons including resource management, maintenance, research, or safety concerns?

☐ ☐
Yes No

Comments

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**Camping**

Maunakea is a culturally significant and environmentally unique place. The landscape is rich with archaeological, cultural and geological sites or features that may not be evident to the untrained eye. A person may unknowingly disturb or damage one of these sites. In addition, severe and hazardous weather including hurricane-strength winds is not uncommon in the summit region. Above Halepōhaku, there are very limited toilet facilities, no designated campsites, no potable water, and no emergency personnel after dark.

To prevent harm to archaeological and natural features, and for health and safety reasons, UH is proposing a no-camping rule. Do you agree?

☐ ☐
Yes No

Reasons

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____________________________________________________________________________

**Snowplay**

Maunakea is not a ski resort and is not equipped with snow recreation infrastructure. The terrain is steep and rocky, and what appears to be an ideal surface may be an ice slope, or only a shallow layer of snow over jagged rock. Many visitors use makeshift snow equipment that lack directional control and braking mechanisms and are not designed for use on snow and ice. The use of motorized equipment to tow persons on snowboards, sleds or skis are safety threats to the user and others. Snowplay activities may also pose imminent threat to the cultural and natural resources. Recreational contests are not appropriate for the summit.

1. Should snowplay be allowed?

☐ ☐
Yes No
Reasons _____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. If yes, do you think limits should be placed on the types of snow recreational equipment used?
   O O
   Yes No
Comments____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

3.a. Should people be allowed to collect snow?
   O O
   Yes No
Reasons ______________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

3.b. If yes, do you think limits on snow-collection should be imposed?
Comments____________________________________________________________________________
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**Permits**
The suggested rules would address the need for permits in the following categories: group, research, and special use (commercial tour activity permits are discussed separately). The need for permits would allow for better control over certain activities that would ordinarily be prohibited, but upon evaluation of the planned activity, would be determined to not be harmful to the resources nor pose a health or safety concern.

1. Do you think the issuance of permits is a good idea?
   O O
   Yes No
Comments____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
2. Are the categories of group, research, and special use permits sufficient?
   
   Yes   No

Comments ________________________________
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Commercial activities and tour permits
In addition to the cultural, historical, environmental, and scientific values of Maunakea, there is also commercial interest in accessing the mountain. DLNR regulations state that commercial activity may be permitted if the activity is:
   • consistent with the function and purpose of a designated land use area,
   • consistent with existing approved management plans,
   • compatible with existing approved uses, and
   • evaluated for its potential effect on the surround natural, cultural, and scientific resources, the existing facilities, and the public’s use of the Maunakea lands.
   • OMKM may also evaluate the proposed activity’s compatibility with scheduled or ongoing construction, repairs, or maintenance activities, and
   • OMKM may consider the applicant’s prior record and may require additional information.

Under OMKM’s existing permit system, authorized permittees provide management benefits to the mountain, including contribution of a passenger fee. These fees help pay for road maintenance, the cost of the ranger program, water, and utilities. Permitted operators must also comply with strict conditions that protects the University from liability, protects the resources, and requires companies to educate their passengers about the cultural and environmental significance of Maunakea; and drivers are required to go through a cultural and natural resources orientation and must be First-Aid certified.

In recent years, OMKM has observed an increase in unpermitted activities on Maunakea, particularly unpermitted commercial tours or transportation for sightseeing and stargazing. The rules will enable rangers to respond appropriately.

Should commercial activities on Maunakea be limited?
   
   Yes   No

Comments ________________________________
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Do you feel the commercial tour permit system as described is fair and reasonable?

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

Comments
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__________________________________________________________________________

Access, general
Visiting Maunakea is a privilege, yet visitors may not be aware of their impacts to the mountain’s unique and sensitive cultural and natural resources. Maunakea is also an extreme environment and most visitors are unfamiliar with the hazards of visiting the mountain. The State and University of Hawaii are responsible for protecting the resources and also the safety of all non-employee visitors on Maunakea.

Do you feel these rules are reasonable to protect visitors and the resources of Maunakea?

[ ] Yes  [ ] No

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Comments
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