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#### For Immediate Release

# Chad Kālepa Baybayan Captains Collective Wisdom of Kahu Ku Mauna Council Shares Perspective on Mauna Kea

Hilo, Hawaii— Ever since they set forth on their own respective voyages some 13 years ago, Office of Mauna Kea Management, Mauna Kea Management Board and University of Hawaii Hilo have been extremely fortunate to have had the collective wisdom of Kahu Ku Mauna, a nine-member council of Hawaiian cultural resource people representing various parts of Hawaii Island, to guide them. Currently, the task of coordinating the council and serving as its spokesperson falls to Chad Kālepa Baybayan, a highly respected Captain and Navigator of the Hawaiian deep-sea voyaging canoes Hokule'a, Hawai'iloa, and Hokualaka'i

Kālepa is a graduate of UH Hilo's Ka Haka 'Ula O Ke'elikolani College of Hawaiian Language and holds a masters degree in Education from Heritage College. He currently serves as Associate Director at 'Imiloa, where he works with students and educators to share the powerful story of the mariner explorers and astronomer navigators who settled these islands.

Recently, Kālepa expressed his views and perspective regarding Mauna Kea in an essay he wrote based on the tradition of the oceanic explorers from whom he descends. OMKM believes it's important to share a few of its highlights.

"The Maunakea adze quarry, the largest in the world, offers conclusive evidence that the ancients recognized the importance of Maunakea's rich resources and its ability to serve its community by producing the tools to sustain daily life. They ventured to Maunakea, reshaped the environment by quarrying rock, left behind evidence of their work, and took materials off the mountain to serve their communities, with the full consent and in the presence of their gods.

## Page 2

#### **OMKM** Babayan

"Using the resources on Maunakea as a tool to serve and benefit the community through astronomy is consistent with the example of the adze quarry. To value astronomy and its work on Maunakea, you have to value the importance of "Ike", knowledge, and its quest for a greater understanding of the universe we live in. Our ancestors were no different; they sought knowledge from their environment, including the stars, to guide them and to give them a greater perspective of the universe that surrounded them. The science of astronomy helps us to advance human knowledge to the benefit of the community. It teaches us where we have come from, and where we are going. Its impact has been positive, introducing the young to the process of modern exploration and discovery, a process consistent with past traditional practices.

"My perspective of Maunakea is based on the tradition of the oceanic explorers from whom I descend, a people who left the safety of their coasts, sailed away, and in so doing discovered the stars.

"Maunakea, like life, is sacred, and we need to proceed with the important work of insuring our future. Let's look to Maunakea and continue a synergy of mountain, exploration, and the stars."

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#### **About Office of Mauna Kea Management**

The Office of Mauna Kea Management is charged with day-to-day management of Mauna Kea Science Reserve as prescribed in the Master Plan. The adoption of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve Master Plan by the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents in June 2000 marked a critical milestone in the management of Mauna Kea.

Meetings and public hearings spanning a period of nearly two years went into the formulation of the Master Plan, which established management guidelines for the next 20 years. The Master Plan reflected the community's deeply rooted concerns over the use of Mauna Kea, including respect for Hawaiian cultural beliefs, protection of environmentally sensitive habitat, recreational use of the mountain, and astronomy research.

It places the focus of responsibility with the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH). The UH-Hilo Chancellor established the Office of Mauna Kea Management and the Board of Regents

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### Page 3

# **OMKM** Babayan

established the Mauna Kea Management Board in the fall of 2000. The Mauna Kea Management Board in turn formed Kahu Ku Mauna, a council comprised of Hawaiian cultural resource persons to serve as advisors.

The mission of the Office of Mauna Kea Management is to achieve harmony, balance and trust in the sustainable management and stewardship of Mauna Kea Science Reserve through community involvement and programs that protect, preserve and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational resources of Mauna Kea while providing a world-class center dedicated to education, research and astronomy.

Note to editors: If you are interested in high-res images to accompany this media release or for additional assistance including subject interviews, contact Laura Aquino at 808-326-7820 or via email at <a href="mailto:laura@current-events.com">laura@current-events.com</a>