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OMKM to Host Public Open House on Rulemaking for Mauna Kea Science Reserve

Hilo, Hawai'i—(June 12, 2015) The Office of Maunakea Management will be hosting public open houses in Kona, Hilo and Waimea to garner community input on Administrative Rules content for UH managed lands on Maunakea. In accordance to Hawaii State Legislature Act 132, passed in 2009, the purpose of proposed such rules is to provide proper protection of the natural, cultural and scientific resources and maintain public safety and welfare.

The open houses will take place in Kona at the West Hawaii Civic Center on Tuesday, June 23 from 5 p.m. – 7:30 pm; in Hilo at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center on Wednesday, June 24 from 5 p.m. – 7:30 pm; and in Waimea at Kuhio Hale, DHHL West Hawaii District Office on Thursday, June 25 from 5 p.m. – 7:30 pm.

OMKM staff will be on hand to provide a brief update on the content development and timeline. The staff will also be seeking public input.

“These open houses allow my staff and I to hear from community members. Once in place, the Administrative Rules will become the enforcing foundation that protect, preserve and enhance the natural, cultural and recreational resources on Maunakea,” said Office of Maunakea Management Director Stephanie Nagata.

Persons requesting further information about the open houses or the rulemaking may contact OMKM at 808-933-0734 or email omkm@hawaii.edu

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About Office of Maunakea Management

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

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