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For Immediate Release

NEW MAUNAKEA HERITAGE AND NATURAL RESOURCE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

Hilo, Hawaii (June 27, 2016)—"Maunakea Heritage and Natural Resources Guide," a new four-color brochure featuring valuable information for visiting this storied place of cultural, archaeological, natural and recreational resources is now available and free for those visiting Maunakea.

Designed as an in-hand resource by the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM), the guide brings to life the cultural references of the puu (cinder cones) and significance of the summit areas, the natural history and historical origins of Maunakea. Maps of the Astronomy Precinct around the summit area are featured and the guide encourages mountain visitors to spend time at the Visitor Information Station (VIS) at the 9,000-foot elevation before traversing up to explore the 13,000-foot summit regions.

The guiding premise of the printed guide is to be safe, Malama Aina (take care of the land) and to be respectful of this storied place.

"Whether traveling to the summit area of Maunakea for culture, research or simply to watch the sunset, we designed this new heritage and natural resources guide to detail the remarkable natural and cultural landscape in a way that is helpful and educational to all who journey to Maunakea and want to learn more about this special place," said OMKM's Director Stephanie Nagata.

Safety First

The guide details how to safely explore the mountain lands explaining the need to acclimate for at least 30 minutes at the Visitor Information Station and cautions that children under

19, pregnant women and those with respiratory, heart or overweight conditions are advised not go higher than the VIS. Scuba divers are cautioned to wait 24 hours after their last dive before traveling to the summit.

Hikers are forewarned that there are no designated trails on the managed lands and stresses the need to check in before and after hiking at the VIS. Experienced hikers will take approximately 10 hours (and lots of water) when hiking up to the summit and back.

Introducing any form of plant or animal life and removing, damaging or disturbing any historic or prehistoric remains or geological features are prohibited on the mountain. Maunakea Rangers are on duty 365 days a year for resource protection and mountain visitor safety.

A Special Place

The Maunakea Heritage and Natural Resources Guide includes a cultural focus that will help visitors and kamaaina to understand the deep connection and reverence Hawaiians have for Maunakea.

The puu are named for deities, and these gods and goddesses of the mountain are part of the Maunakea landscape. The reverence for the mountain is illustrated in a Hawaiian creation chant that explains the compression of time and space, the narrowing of distance between earth and sky and connection of Maunakea and Hawaii to the sky and the gods above.

The Hawaiian cultural section of the guide also addresses the natural history, historical origins, and how Hawaiians referenced three regions on the mountain—Wao Akua, the highest points and the realm of the gods and spirits, Wao LaaLaau, the region on the mountain utilized for hunting and gathering (feathers and hardwoods) and Wao Nahele, the forested region where resources were gathered to build canoes, homes and crafts.

As a treasured place of cultural, spiritual and archaeological significance, visitors to the mountain are informed that appropriate and respectful behavior is expected.

Useful Information

How to access information on road and weather conditions on Maunakea, and information on land management, and native flora and fauna found in the region is also readily available.

Free copies of the Maunakea Heritage and Natural Resources Guide are now available at the Office of Maunakea Management's offices in Hilo, Visitor Information Station at Halepohaku and the Island of Hawaii Visitors Bureau. Internet users may view and print out a copy of the guide online at malamamaunakea.org/visitor-information.

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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 locally with the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The UH-Hilo Chancellor established the Office of Mauna Kea Management and the Board of Regents 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.