

Minutes of Mauna Kea Management Board Meeting
Thursday, August 3, 2000, 9 a.m.
Conference Room, UH-Hilo Administration Building

In Attendance: Jim Kennedy, Barbara Robertson, Barry Taniguchi, Harry Yada, Ed Stevens, Arthur Hoke, Walter Heen, Moses Haia, III, Gerald DeMello, Stephanie Nagata, Arnold Hiura, and Audrey Furukawa.

The first meeting of the Mauna Kea Management Board was held on Thursday, August 3, 2000, in the conference room of the University of Hawaii at Hilo's Administration Building. UH-Hilo Chancellor Rose Tseng opened the meeting via conference call, greeting participants and thanking them for their willingness to participate in this important project.

Interim Director Walter Heen added his introductory comments and then requested each person to introduce themselves and their relationship to the Mauna Kea Management Board.

The Mauna Kea Master Plan adopted by the University of Hawaii Board of Regents was the result of more than 15 months of difficult – and sometimes painful – effort contributed by many individuals. In the end, the process tried to accommodate the many key scientific, cultural, educational and environmental concerns impacting the future of Mauna Kea. It was broadly acknowledged that the concerns expressed during that lengthy process of shaping the Master Plan continue to serve as guideposts to the work of the Management Board in its effort to implement the Plan.

Some of the specific issues raised were:

- preserve the cultural integrity of the mountain;
- emphasize the importance of education, both scientific as well as cultural;
- ensuring benefits for native Hawaiians and local residents;
- protect the environment; and
- appreciate that Mauna Kea is a unique resource that serves as host to the world's top scientists and scientific institutions in the world.

One of the first items of business to be addressed was the specific charge placed upon the Board to respond to the Board of Regents' request for a progress report to be made to the BOR at its October meeting to be held in Hilo. It was further noted that in order for the report to be placed on the October agenda, a preliminary report had to be prepared for review by September. Members of the Mauna Kea Management Board speculated that the reason for this strict timetable was to allow the BOR to prepare its funding strategies prior to the convening of the State Legislature in January.

The Master Plan and BOR request further specifies that environmental, cultural and educational programs be developed as part of the implementation plan. To address these issues, members of the Management Board were asked to consider convening separate committees to be formed around these three key subject areas. The committees would

then provide the Management Board with the input necessary to ensure that their concerns are addressed programmatically and supported by necessary budgetary resources.

Interim funding of \$400,000 has been provided by UH President Kenneth Mortimer. Additional funding must be secured to continue work beyond June 30, 2001. The Management Board agreed to form a separate Budget Committee to begin addressing some of the immediate operational costs needed to implement a Mauna Kea Management Plan. Members Jim Kennedy, Barry Taniguchi, and Harry Yada were asked to serve on the Budget Committee. Mauna Kea Management interim office staff Moses Haia and Stephanie Nagata would also work with the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee agreed to meet on Monday, August 7.

The latter portion of the meeting was dedicated to a presentation by Ed Stevens, who eloquently addressed the question, "Why is Mauna Kea Sacred to Hawaiians?" In his presentation, Mr. Stevens shared photographs of the mountain's summit area, and identified the many key historical and spiritual sites that share common ground with the observatories.

The Mauna Kea Management Board agreed to reconvene on Thursday, August 10, at 9 a.m. at the UH-Hilo campus. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.