

# OFFICE OF MAUNA KEA MANAGEMENT

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Mauna Kea Management Board  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday July 17, 2001  
Institute for Astronomy, Room 131  
640 N A'ohoku Place  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

## Minutes of Regular Meeting

**Members Present:** Arthur Hoke, Chair; Robert Pacheco, Vice Chair; Barry Taniguchi, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair/Secretary; Heather Cole; Jim Kennedy, Barbara Robertson and Harry Yada

**Kahu Ku Mauna Council Members Present:** Reynolds Kamakawiwo'ole, Pua Kanahele, Mikahala Roy, Ululani Sherlock and Ed Stevens

**Interim OMKM Staff Present:** Walter Heen, Arnold Hiura, and Stephanie Nagata

**Others Present:** Mayor Harry Kim, Hunter Bishop, Ron Koehler, Ron Laub, J. Moran, Ian Robson, and Antony Shinckel.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hoke called the Mauna Kea Management Board (MKMB) Meeting to order on July 17, 2001 at 9:40 am.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Jim Kennedy and seconded by Heather Cole that the minutes of the June 12, 2001 meeting of the MKMB be accepted. The motion was carried unanimously.

### III. Kahu Ku Mauna Council Report

Ed Stevens submitted a letter to the Board expressing the Council's desire to work together with the OMKM and MKMB to begin identifying specific landforms and sites requiring special attention, protection and preservation. This action requires immediate attention to assure permanent ranger/guides are properly trained on cultural matters.

Six landforms were identified as priority sites: Pu'u Poliahu, Pu'u Kukahau'ula, Pu'u Waiau, Lake Waiau, Pu'u Lilinoe and Keanakakoi Adz Quarry. Suggested actions included identifying areas requiring footpath access only, no vehicle access points, and interpretative signs.

Director Heen suggested the Kahu Ku Mauna and Hawaiian Culture committee work in tandem to be more efficient in the process. We should also coordinate with other Board committees to prevent duplication of effort. It was noted that programs need to be developed so that OMKM can determine its program budget.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Establishment of a Planning Committee**

Heather Cole, Rob Pacheco and Barry Taniguchi volunteered to serve on the Planning Committee with Mr. Taniguchi as chair. The committee will be expanded to include representatives from Kahu Ku Mauna and the community.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Design Review Committee**

This item was deferred until the next meeting.

##### **B. Ranger/Guide Update**

Stephanie Nagata provided an update of ranger/guide activity and observations for the period June 10 – July 14, 2001 (see attached report). In summary, vehicle incidents and hiking appear to be the most prominent activities on the mountain.

There is on average about 100 vehicles (excluding observatory and commercial tour vehicles) traveling to Mauna Kea each week. Ranger/guides are warning drivers not to stop on the side of the gravel road or to drive off the road. One driver ignored the warning and drove over some large rocks, damaging the car's oil pan and requiring a tow from MKSS. Hikers are observed going to Pu'u Wekiu and to Lake Waiau. Several sightings of vehicles on Pu'u Poliahu were also reported.

Although the summit is relatively clean, ranger/guides report removing 5 to 25 pounds of trash at varying times. The composition of the trash is mainly cigarette butts, nails and beer bottles.

It appears most of the issues involve public safety matters and driver ignorance.

#### **V. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Harry Kim attended the meeting to find out what the Office and Board was all about. He indicated the Hawaiian cultural issue was a major factor in his decision to run for Mayor. The Mauna Kea issue is of great interest to him and he offered the assistance of the County of Hawaii. He encouraged the Board to be sensitive to the Hawaiian cultural issue and urged better communication and working peacefully together.

#### **VI. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

August 21, 2001.

#### **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Hoke adjourned the public portion of the meeting and the Board called an executive session at 10:10 a.m. to discuss personnel matters.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Hoke adjourned the executive session at 2:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Signed by Barry Taniguchi

Barry K. Taniguchi, Secretary, MKMB

July 31, 2001

Date

**SUMMARY OF RANGER/GUIDE REPORTS**  
**June 10 – July 14, 2001**

**Vehicles**

General vehicle activity appears to be heavier in the afternoons and evenings. The number of 2-wheel drive vehicles is greater during the afternoon compared to 4-wheel drive vehicles which are spread throughout the day.

Commercial activity is heaviest during the evening hours.

**Weekly Vehicle Count – All Non Commercial (6/10 – 7/14/01)**

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Range	7 – 45	31 – 63	20 - 52
Average	28	44	37

**Weekly Vehicle Count – 4 & 2-Wheel Dr. (non Commercial) (7/8 – 7/14/01)**

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
4 - Wheel	37	37	29
2 – Wheel	8	13	7

**Weekly Commercial Vehicle Count (6/10 – 7/14/01)**

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Range	0 – 8	0 - 19	32 – 70
Average	4	5	49

**Incidents Involving Vehicles**

There were five incidents of vehicles observed driving up Pu‘u Poliahu. In one incident, a vehicle was escorted off the Pu‘u and driver and passengers were told to pick up their litter.

Other incidents involved mechanical malfunctions and driving or pulling off the road. Ranger/guides warn drivers not to pull or drive off the road. In one case, a driver who was warned, drove over some large rocks damaging the car’s oil pan, requiring a tow by an MKSS maintenance truck.

**Hiking**

Hikers were observed climbing Pu‘u Wekiu (Pu‘u Kukahau‘ula), Lake Waiiau and in the general summit area.

**Weekly Hiker Count (6/17 – 7/14/01)**

	Hikers
Range	24 - 47
Average Group Size	3

**Trash**

Generally, the summit is relatively clean, but reports of 5 – 25 pounds of trash have been removed from the summit. Trash observed and picked up by ranger/guides consists primarily of cigarette butts, beer bottles and nails.

**Painting at CFHT and Keck**

Ranger/guides have been observing the painting activities at the two observatories. The sites are kept clean. No major incidents reported.

**Other Activities**

Ranger/guides have observed children at the summit and have warned accompanying adults about altitude and physical dangers.

Occasionally individual motorcycles and bicycles are observed on the mountain, but no commercial operations involving either have been observed.