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, 2nd 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

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.

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<tr>
<th>Weekly Vehicle Count – All Non Commercial (6/10 – 7/14/01)</th>
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<td>Morning</td>
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<td>Average</td>
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<tr>
<th>Weekly Vehicle Count – 4 &amp; 2-Wheel Dr. (non Commercial) (7/8 – 7/14/01)</th>
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<td>Morning</td>
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<td>4 - Wheel</td>
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<td>2 – Wheel</td>
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<th>Weekly Commercial Vehicle Count (6/10 – 7/14/01)</th>
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<td>Morning</td>
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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 Waiau and in the general summit area.

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<th>Weekly Hiker Count (6/17 – 7/14/01)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hikers</td>
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<td>Average Group Size</td>
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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.