



Protect the Sacred Temple of Mauna Kea

NASA wants to begin construction immediately

NO EIS, NO PERMIT

Comment Today!! Stop the Bulldozers!!!

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) seeks to immediately begin construction on 4 to 6 new telescopes. NASA has not met the federal requirements outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act or produced an Environmental Impact Statement, required by the National Environmental Policy Act. PLEASE TESTIFY OR FAX YOUR COMMENTS TO BLNR

HEARINGS: 3/20 6 p.m. KONA Old Airport & 3/21 6 p.m. HILO County Council

The summit of Mauna Kea resides in Wao Akua—the realm of Akua—the realm of Creator. It is the sacred temple of the Supreme Being.

Mauna Kea is home to Na Akua (the divine deities), Na `Aumakua (the divine ancestors) and the meeting place of Papa (Earth Mother) and Wakea (Sky Father)—the progenitors of Na Kanaka Maoli.

Mauna Kea holds the burial grounds of the highest born and most sacred ancestors. It is where the sacred waters of Kanekawaiola originate and where the waters to restore life and heal the sick and injured are harvested.

Just as coral polyps are the origin of life that nourish the people, Mauna Kea is the origin of land that supports the birth of the people and defines their relationship to the heavens. It is said that Mauna Kea is the origin of space—where the sky and earth separated to form the great expanse of space and the heavenly realms.

Mauna Kea serves as the zenith of the Hawaiian people's ancestral connection to Creation and to the spirit of creation. The central role of Mauna Kea is affirmed in oral and written histories throughout Polynesia. These oral histories originated long before contact with western societies and pre-date modern science by Millennia.

Mauna Kea summit are Crown lands, held in trust for the Native Hawaiian people and as a public trust resource. A substantial portion of the Mauna Kea Science Reserve is a Natural Area Reserve, providing protection for endangered species and unique ecosystems.

NASA is Seeking to Begin Construction Immediately

NASA seeks start building begin on 4 to 6 new telescopes without having met federal requirements outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act or produced an EIS, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

UH Institute for Astronomy applied to DLNR on behalf of NASA's Outrigger Telescope project, for a Conservation District Use Permit (CDUA). The State Board of Land and Natural Resources will hold two public hearings on this permit application; **March 20th in Kona and March 21st in Hilo. If this permit is granted, NASA could begin construction on the mountain immediately.**

The Mauna Kea Management Plan, developed by University of Hawaii (UH), was adopted by the UH Board of Regents in June 2000, in spite of broad and prolonged public opposition. The Mauna Kea Master Plan was considered to be a compromise and heralded as an overall reduction of telescope development on Mauna Kea. In reality, the Plan allows for up to 60 more telescopes to be built on the sacred mountain!!

There has been broad opposition to development of Mauna Kea for the past 30 years. Communities' concerns are not put to rest by UH's assertion that the new Mauna Kea Master Plan limits development on the summit. The original lease issued in 1968 allowed for the construction of "one observatory and support structures" to be built on Mauna Kea. UH skirted around the lease condition by claiming that additional telescopes were part of the original "support structures." In addition, limits on astronomy development under the 1983 Master Plan failed miserably. Even though

the 1983 Plan limited development to 13 telescopes by the year 2000—by 1999, there were 24 telescopes and the infrastructure for up to 36 telescopes.

The additional 60 telescopes allowed under the new University's Management Plan will increase the total number of telescopes atop Mauna Kea to ninety-six (96) telescopes in all.

UH's New Math of Astronomy: 13 really means 36 and 36 = 60 consequently, 60 will equal 96.

The Board of Natural Resources Should Deny the CDUA Permit Because:

- The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) does not know what the potential environmental and cultural/religious impacts of this project may be.
- NASA has not responded to public comments or published the findings on its Draft Environmental Assessment, nor has NASA begun an Environmental Impact Statement. The vast majority of public comments emphatically called for NASA to complete a federally mandated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- The State should not issue any permit until the federally required EIS process has been completed and there is a full assessment of the potential negative impacts to groundwater, plants and wildlife, cultural rights and religious practices.
- For example, the state must know how NASA plans to:
 - Prevent contamination of groundwater and the lake, provide monitoring and testing plans. Address the transportation, storage, use and disposal of hazardous toxic substances.
 - Protect cultural and religious resources
 - Treat and dispose of wastewater
 - Monitor and protect the Wekiu bug
 - Protect access by Native Hawaiians
- Mauna Kea is home to a range of highly unique and very fragile ecosystems, including numerous highly endangered species. It is the source of much of the Big Island's groundwater. It is a sacred temple that houses the origins of life in Hawaii. We cannot allow further unmitigated desecration of this temple.

Specific Issues that Need to be Addressed:

It Just Doesn't Add Up:

Observatories from France, Canada, United Kingdom, Japan, the United States (and other countries) pay the state \$1.00 (one dollar) per year in lease rent!! NASA's annual budget alone is approximately \$14 billion dollars. The Observatories are owned by the richest nations in the world. Residents of Hawai'i do not benefit at all from the millions of dollars in revenues generated by the Observatories through renting out viewing time. In fact, tax payers are left holding the bag if/when groundwater contamination and toxic spills occur. There are alternatives.

Environmental Impacts:

Mauna Kea is a principle aquifer for Hawai'i Island.

In the last 30 years, none of the Observatories have produced a federal EIS of their activities on the fragile environment or on the cultural and religious resource of Mauna Kea.

The cumulative/combined effects of 30 years of telescope industry activities and development must be addressed.

As a direct result of the development and activities on Mauna Kea, the endemic Wekiu bug population has been reduced by 99.7%. In addition there are other endangered species that require specific protection and monitoring.

There are numerous toxic materials used by the Observatories on Mauna Kea, including elemental mercury and hazardous solvents. At least one observatory has had four documented mercury spills.

Due to inadequate sewage systems used by the observatories, human waste and other effluents leach directly into the porous volcanic soil.

The water quality of the lake and aquifer must be carefully monitored.

Cultural Rights:

Mauna Kea is a sacred temple. It is a religious shrine. It holds the bones of our most revered ancestors. Native Hawaiian people must have input into how the mountain is used and what happens on it. We have been blocked from the process, just as we have been blocked from the mountain.

Access rights have been blocked by the University. The ice, snow, and waters, including the lake, of Mauna Kea are regularly used for customary, traditional cultural and religious purposes.

The Mauna Kea road is a state road paid for by the taxpayers of Hawai'i, yet University personnel often stop traffic and deny access to the general public and to Native Hawaiians, while allowing observatory staff free use of the road.

The Public is Cut Out of the Process:

For over 30 years there has been broad opposition to any new development on the sacred mountain of Mauna Kea.

The Mauna Kea Advisory Council is not accessible or accountable to the public. UH President Dobelle and UH Hilo Chancellor Tseng appoint representatives, including Native Hawaiians to the Advisory Council, which is advisory only. The final decisions are made at the highest level. All public input is under the direct control of the University. There is no accountability. **There is no opportunity for true community-based participation in any of the decisions that impact this vital cultural and religious resource.**

What You Can Do to Stop the Bulldozers:

Testify at a public hearing, **mail or fax comments** or **fax free via KAHEA's website:**

Gill Coloma-Agaran, Chairman
Department of Land and Natural Resource
1151 Punchbowl St.
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813
Fax : (808) 587-0390

HEARINGS: BOARD Land/Natural Resources

Wednesday, March 20—Old Kona Airport 6 p.m.
Thursday, March 21—Hilo County Council 6 p.m.

Learn more about the Mauna Kea issue. Please read the Report, **“Mauna Kea-The Temple: Protecting the Sacred Resource,”** by The Royal Order of Kamehameha I and Mauna Kea Anaina Hou, a group of cultural practitioners formed to oversee activities on Mauna Kea. Both groups include cultural lineal descendents of sites on Mauna Kea. This report and other information can be found on our website: www.kahea.org.

The Report describes the fatal flaws of the Mauna Kea Management Plan and it provides viable and positive alternatives, including directing money from the telescopes to the State of Hawai'i for resource management, general education, and a format for public process in the management of Mauna Kea.

Write UH President Dobelle and tell him that NASA must do an EIS on environmental and cultural impacts on Mauna Kea.

The Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Mauna Kea Anaina Hou, 'Ilio'ulaokalani and KAHEA are working to encourage public input into this process by providing information to the concerned public.

Mauna Kea needs everyone's help to:

- Ensure that cultural and religious rights and the right of access to the Temple are protected.
- Protect the fragile and unique ecosystems on Mauna Kea.
- Provide information to the public this issue and encourage public participation in the of the Master Plan
- Support an autonomous Mauna Kea Management Authority to review proposed activities on Mauna Kea.
- Insist that all federal agencies comply with all federal and state statues and regulations
- Encourage the state to act on behalf of the Ceded Crown Lands Trust.
- Protect the Natural Area Reserve (NARS) lands on Mauna Kea.

KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance
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