

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001

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Reply to Attn of:

The Honorable Patsy T. Mink  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Mink:

Thank you for your letter of June 27, 1997, regarding NASA's planned \$50 million upgrade of the Keck Telescopes on the Mauna Kea Science Reserve.

This funding will be used for two purposes: (1) to link together the existing Keck Telescopes creating a highly sophisticated interferometer system, which will enhance our ability to detect and characterize super-Jupiter sized planets and 500 stars for the presence of planets as small as Uranus; and, (2) to construct 2-meter outrigger telescopes, which will enable us to measure the emission from orbiting nearby stars and image the disks around young stars out of which planets are forming.

Please be assured that NASA will comply with all applicable legal and environmental requirements, including those provisions contained in the National Historic Preservation Act.

We trust this information helps you better understand our current plans for upgrading the Keck Telescopes on Mauna Kea.

Sincerely,

  
for Jeff Lawrence  
Associate Administrator  
for Legislative Affairs

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION  
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD  
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22230



OFFICE OF THE  
DIRECTOR

November 22, 1996

Ms. Mililani B. Trask  
Ka Lahui Hawaii  
P. O. Box 4964  
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Ms. Trask:

Thank you for your letter of September 19, 1996, requesting that, under the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Science Foundation (NSF) consult with Ka Lahui Hawaii regarding NSF-funded astronomical activities within the Mauna Kea Science Reserve. At the present time, NSF is not contemplating any project, activity, or program on Mauna Kea which would qualify as a new undertaking as defined in the NHPA. We, therefore, see no current application of Section 106. I can assure you that, should this situation change, all consultation with appropriate groups, as required under Section 106, will be initiated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neal Lane".

Neal Lane  
Director

National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



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DEC 10 1996

The Honorable Mililani B. Trask  
Governor of Hawaii  
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Governor Trask:

Thank you for your letter to the NASA Administrator dated September 19, 1996. Because of the nature of your letter, it has been forwarded to this office for response.

Your letter requests that NASA consult with Ka Lahui Hawaii regarding astronomical activities funded by NASA at the Mauna Kea Science Reserve, pursuant to the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470f, as amended. At the present time, NASA is not contemplating any project, activity, or program at the Science Reserve which would constitute a new undertaking as defined by the NHPA. Therefore, NASA sees no applicability of the Section 106 process to its current activities at the Science Reserve.

If this situation changes, and if a new NASA undertaking or a new NASA-assisted undertaking is contemplated, NASA will comply fully with the NHPA, and consultations with appropriate groups, as required by Section 106, will be conducted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward A. Frankle".

Edward A. Frankle  
General Counsel