

GEORGE R. ARIYOSHI
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



CHRISTOPHER COBB, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF LAND & NATURAL RESOURCES

EDGAR A. HAMASU
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
P. O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

July 20, 1976

DIVISIONS:
CONVEYANCES
FISH AND GAME
FORESTRY
LAND MANAGEMENT
STATE PARKS
WATER AND LAND DEVELOPMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chairman and Members
Board of Land & Natural Resources

FROM: Randal Jackson, Staff Planner
Recreation Planning

SUBJECT: A Plan for Mauna Kea; comments on

The following is a summary of reviews and comments made on "A Plan for Mauna Kea" during and after the May 13, 1976, public presentation.

Dr. Richard E. Marland, Director
Office of Environmental Quality Control
April 1, 1976

We would like to bring to your attention section 1:10 of the EIS Regulations which state:

...agencies are to assess at the earliest practicable time the significance of environmental impacts in its action, with a view to: the overall, cumulative impact; related actions in the regions; and further actions contemplated.

In applying this to the Mauna Kea situation, we interpret this as meaning that the master plan should be assessed in terms of the entire undertaking and not in a piecemeal manner. The EIS Regulations continue on to emphasize the concept of "complete scope of action," in section 1:12:

A group of proposed actions shall be treated as a single action when: (1) the component actions are phases or increments of a larger total undertaking;

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(2) an individual project is a necessary precedent for a larger project; (3) an individual project represents a commitment to a larger project; or (4) the actions in question are essentially the same and a single Statement will adequately address the impacts of any single action.

Since the master plan takes into consideration all actions proposed for the mountain, we recommend that an environmental impact statement be required at the master plan stage.

Therefore, we recommend that an EIS be required at the master plan stage where the total environmental impact of related actions can be evaluated. We offer our assistance in the preparation of the EIS and will be happy to respond to any questions regarding the EIS process.

Hawaii Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee
April 6, 1976

Recommends fencing 25% of forest for native Hawaiian ecosystem preservation and managing the remainder for sheep-hunting recreation.

Hon. E. Alvey Wright, Director
State Department of Transportation
April 8, 1976

1. The saddle road and the road to Hale Pohaku are under County of Hawaii's jurisdiction.
2. We will consider the acceptance of maintenance responsibility for Mauna Kea access road only after the jurisdiction of the saddle road is transferred to the State, and provided we are adequately staffed, equipped, and funded.

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United States Dept. of the Interior
Fish & Wildlife Service
Donald J. Hankla
Acting Regional Director
April 9, 1976

1. Concur with Department recommendation to eliminate goats from Mauna Kea.
2. Disagree with Mauna Kea Master Plan Advisory Committee's recommendation to fence 25% of mountain for preservation.

Mae E. Mull
Island of Hawaii Representative
Hawaii Audubon Society
Member, Mauna Kea Advisory Committee
April 11, 1976

1. There is a need for scheduling public hearings.
2. As a member of the Mauna Kea Advisory Committee, I am chagrined that the minority positions of members were not conveyed in the Committee report sent to your Department. You will recall that at the July 23, 1975 preliminary meeting of the Committee in Hilo you said that the Board expected to hear the minority views of the Committee. One other Committee member and I repeatedly asked that this be done, but our requests were disregarded.

The Board should know that the Committee recommendation to fence 25% of the mamane forest for endangered species habitat protection and maintain sheep hunting on the other 75% of the forest was adopted by a bare majority vote. Of the 7 members present, 4 voted in favor (E. Pacheco, J. Lee, R. Suefuji, and D. Reeser); 2 voted against (Q. Tomich, M. Mull); and one abstained (C. Garcia). Dr. Tomich and I argued in favor of an ecosystem approach with the sound biological management that calls for eventual elimination of feral sheep and goats from the mountain.

3. The Hawaii Audubon Society strongly supports the DLNR staff recommendation that sheep and goats be eliminated from Mauna Kea because their presence prevents recovery of the declining forest and the unique endangered species in that threatened ecosystem. We agree with continuation of pig and game bird hunting as part of the controlled multiple-use concept for management of Mauna Kea.

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4. The Board should know that two Advisory Committee members voted against the motion to site the mid-level support facility for the astronomers at Hale Pohaku.
5. The Society wholly supports the Advisory Committee recommendations that the number of observatories at the summit be limited to the six already approved by the Board, and that on-site generators be used to meet electrical power needs.

Sheila Conant, Ph.D.
Hawaii Audubon Society
P. O. Box 5032
Honolulu, HI 96814

1. Commends Department on proposal to remove sheep from Mauna Kea.
2. Notes that the Big Island Citizen's Master Plan Committee's proposal of fencing 25% of the mountain is unwise in light of overwhelming evidence showing the damage wrought by feral sheep on mamane.
3. Feral sheep can be hunted elsewhere, but the loss of the palila and mamane/naio ecosystem would be irrevocable.

Mr. Clarence Garcia, Chairman
Mauna Kea Advisory Committee
April 17, 1976

1. There was a time when the sheep and goats may have threatened the mountain, but that time has long since passed. Comparing 1937 to 1976, the mamane trees and Mauna Kea forest greenery is in far better condition now.
2. Support job opportunities under the concept of a "science city." However, I stress that only one road up the mountain and that the smallest land area possible be allotted to these installations.

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Robert Memechek, M.D.
Hawaii Chapter of the Sierra Club
April 22, 1976

1. The feral animals must be totally removed (from Mauna Kea).
2. Six summit observatories already approved should be the limit.
3. Overhead powerlines (to the summit) would be an eyesore.
4. Urge the Board hold public hearings, both in Hilo and Honolulu.

Dr. John T. Jefferies
Institute for Astronomy
University of Hawaii
April 30, 1976

1. If the question is raised as to placing the construction camp at a lower elevation - say, Pohakuloa or the Humuula Sheep Station - this could have a significant negative economic impact on the project, since it is estimated that the workers would lose a great deal of efficiency if they are required to commute from 6,000 feet; and a very substantial sum would have to be spent to make up for lost time and efficiency.
2. The Board should consider very seriously leaving the option open for the UK to keep its construction camp building on site until such time that permanent mid-level facilities are ready for occupancy; since UK astronomers and support staff will require acclimatization accommodations.

Susan Irvine
Land Use Chairperson
League of Women Voters of
Hawaii County
May 7, 1976

1. By what mechanism are the conflicts between the plan for Mauna Kea and the recommendation of the Mauna Kea Advisory Committee to be resolved?
2. We urge you to hold public hearings.

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Mr. Al Inoue, President
Sportsmen of Hawaii.
May 12, 1976

1. We are in support of the recommendation made by the Hawaii County Mauna Kea Advisory Committee that a fencing program be instituted to protect critical mamane areas. The remaining areas can then be utilized in maintaining a huntable game mammal and game bird population.
2. We are against the proposed development at Hale Pohaku as we believe it will cause an irreversible effect on the game animals as well as non-game animals and plant species in the area. A mid-level elevation facility will also destroy the visual aspects of the area and contribute to the pollution of the Hale Pohaku and adjoining sections.
3. We have and will continue to support the Hawaii County Mauna Kea Advisory Committee recommendation that a maximum of six telescopes be developed in the area. We believe that overdevelopment of the mountain will severely limit recreation on Mauna Kea.

Mr. Earl Pacheco
President,
Hawaii Isle Fish & Game Association
May 13, 1976

1. No one, not even the professionals who attest to have all the answers and who are consistently contradicting themselves, are proved authorities on Mauna Kea as a natural resource to those of who were born here, live here and hope to die here. We have, down through the years, given up a lot of Mauna Kea--NO MORE.
2. Hunting sheep on the slopes of Mauna Kea for recreation and as a food supplement is a policy the State must continue in the best interest of our people.
3. The palila's range extended to Hilo and through the slopes of Mauna Loa and Hualalai, yet today, in these vast ranges of near virgin mamane forest not one palila survives. No one can answer the question of why they exist only on Mauna Kea today. If we consider the changes in the evolution of time, then palila and possibly mamane may not be able to compete and survive with the challenges of today's society.

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4. We cannot support more than the six observatories that have been allowed.
5. We cannot support the overhead power lines. If power is needed for Jefferies' observatory city, let him get it without making the mountain look ugly at the same time.
6. We oppose the mid-elevation facilities because we feel that not enough studies have been made for alternative sites. Furthermore, for many years we have asked for development of a state park and cabin facilities for the people of this County and State and no one has listened to us.

Ms. Dorothea Carvalho
May 13, 1976

1. I feel that the first consideration should be the preservation of mamane/naio forests and palila and other endemic and endangered flora and fauna.
2. As for telescopes, etc. - please - no more than are already bargained for. Jefferies stated that they offered good jobs - but for whom?
3. And no more beautifully paved roads to scar the mountain.
4. On-site generators with emission controlled devices should be used for power at the summit.
5. I would like to see the support facilities down on the Saddle Road level.

Mr. James H. Pedersen
Neighbor Island Consultants
May 13, 1976

1. The mamane/naio forest ecosystem should be managed primarily to maintain and improve the native Hawaiian ecosystem.
2. We recommend that interpretative, maintenance and security personnel be completely established on the Mountain before trails, exhibits, and other facilities encouraging increased recreational use are placed on the Mountain.

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3. We recommend that utility installations such as gas, water, and power should be placed underground.
4. We recommend that the final draft of this policy Plan for Mauna Kea should clearly indicate how all agencies concerned with Mauna Kea will begin to take action on policies proposed within the Plan,

Mrs. Helen S. Baldwin
Hawaii Island Conservation Council
May 13, 1976

1. These recommendations were that large fenced sanctuary areas where the palila and other native wildlife now thrive be established and maintained for their continued care and protection.
2. There must be a full time ranger patrol of the main road to the summit, the adze quarry area, and the Lake Waiiau and ski recreation areas for the preservation of the natural beauty of these areas and for the protection of the people and cars which may get into trouble at high altitudes.
3. There should be a limit on the number of observatories.

Mr. Reginald S. Satake, Vice President
Hawaii Island Archery Club
May 13, 1976

1. Limit development (at the summit) to six observatories.
2. Mid-level facility should be constructed at Hale Pohaku, accommodating a minimum number of personnel.
3. Power at the summit should be provided by on-site generators.
4. Support the fencing program as outlined by the Mauna Kea Advisory Committee.

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Ms. Mae E. Mull
Hawaii Audubon Society
May 13, 1976

1. It is disappointing that the Board did not wait two weeks longer and follow the procedures for an official public hearing (on the Mauna Kea Plan) as the Governor requested, where testimony given would be officially recorded as part of the public record.
2. There was unanimous agreement in the Mauna Kea Advisory Committee on only one major issue, limitation on the number of observatories.
3. We would like to know the process by which revisions will be considered and made before final adoption of the plan by the Board.
4. We agree that feral sheep and goats are incompatible with the ecosystem at any level that would sustain a meaningful hunting program. The Society recommends that there be a gradual reduction of the herds through longer hunting seasons over a period of five years.
5. We urge the Board to acquire access to under-utilized sheep hunting areas on Hualalai and in the saddle between Hualalai and Mauna Loa (to replace Mauna Kea hunting).
6. The Society wholly supports the unanimous Advisory Committee recommendation that the number of observatories at the summit be limited to the six already approved by the Board for the five-year life of the master plan.
7. To meet power needs, the Advisory Committee makes the sound recommendation that on-site generators be used to supply electrical power for the observatories and limited support facility.
8. It is our strong position that no amount of State Park land at Hale Pohaku should be permanently transferred to the Institute of Astronomy for their exclusive use.

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Mr. Robert M. Youngman
Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce
May 13, 1976

1. Each proposed observatory should be reviewed on its own merits. There should not be an arbitrary limit.
2. Favors on-site (summit) electrical power generators.
3. The fencing of a sanctuary for palila birds is recommended.
4. A mid-level facility for housing of research personnel should be located at Hale Pohaku.
5. A citizens committee should be formed to include all areas of interest to improve communications.

Mr. Alan C. Ziegler, Vertebrate Zoologist
Bernice P. Bishop Museum
May 13, 1976

1. If sheep, goat and mouflon destruction of the forest is allowed to continue at the present rate, all wild-life on Mauna Kea - both game and non-game - must necessarily disappear when the last of the mamane/naio forest goes.
2. Fish and Game should augment populations of sheep, goats and/or mouflon elsewhere on the Island of Hawaii.

Mr. Andrew J. Berger, Leader
Palila Recovery Team
May 14, 1976

1. The team must comment upon the proposal of the Citizens Advisory Commission on Mauna Kea that 25 percent of the mountain be fenced. The Palila Recovery Team is unalterably opposed to the concept of fencing and feels it unrealistic and unworkable. It has long been recognized that the threat to the Palila results from habitat modification and destruction caused by feral sheep and goats.
2. The Citizens Advisory Commission for the Mauna Kea Master Plan was grossly in error when it stated that the Palila Recovery Team had recommended as critical habitat only that area from Puu Kole to Puu Kahinahina. Our team in fact recommended a much larger area, which includes the Mauna Kea Forest Reserve and Game Management Area, the Kaohe Game Management Area, the Upper Waikii Paddock, and that portion of the Hawaiian Homes land of Humuulu between Puu Kole and Kahanahina.

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Mr. Robert A. Durant
Life of the Land
May 17, 1976

1. Request that formal public hearings on the Plan for Mauna Kea be held.
2. Agrees with staff on removal of sheep and goats from the mountain.
3. Observatories at the summit should be limited to six.
4. On-site generators should be used for power generation.

Dr. Quentin Tomich
Member, Citizens' Advisory Committee
May 24, 1976

1. Sheep and goats must be removed from Mauna Kea.
2. The mouflon sheep could be left on the mountain to see what their effect would be.
3. Alternative hunting areas should be found.
4. We have come to the stage in Hawaii where the social values of maintaining feral sheep on Mauna Kea must be measured in a context of their net good or detriment to society, and against the social good of preserving the unique endemic biotic elements of the mountain. It is in this context that decisions for the future must be made, not in the short-term political context where those who exert political power get what they want regardless of the negative impact on natural elements of the land. In short, good sheep hunting probably can be reconstituted in other areas of the island. The palila, akiapolaau, rare plants and anthropods, once lost, cannot be replaced.

Mr. John W. Beardsley, Chairman
Animal Species Advisory Commission
June 4, 1976

The Animal Species Advisory Commission desires to go on record as supporting the position taken in the document A Plan for Mauna Kea.

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Mr. Joseph T. Willer, Secretary
Oahu Council of Sportsmans Clubs
June 10, 1976

1. We feel that we cannot give up our right to hunt on Mauna Kea unless an alternate hunting area is found.
2. This alternate area must be of equal or better hunting than that on Mauna Kea.
3. The mouflon sheep herd must be increased so it will withstand greater hunting pressure.
4. If the above conditions are met, we will agree and assist in the irradiations of feral sheep and goats on Mauna Kea.
5. However, the Council wishes to retain the right to continue hunting of pig, sheep, and game birds on the mountain.
6. We also want the land board to study the feasibility of one half of the island of Lanai be set aside for a State hunting preserve.

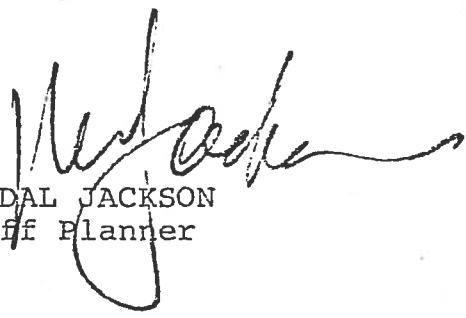
Ms. Cathy M. Lowder, Chairperson
Sierra Club, Mokuloa Group
June 10, 1976

1. Reforestation of Mauna Kea with the complete elimination of feral sheep and goats.
2. Preservation of the historic and natural areas surrounding and including the Adze Quarry and Lake Waiiau.
3. Ensuring the least amount of environmental effects by using on-site generators.
4. Coordinating and supervising the activities such as skiing and snow sledding so that their effects will be minimal, over a long period of time, by providing the necessary support facilities, including restrooms and trash disposal.
5. All buildings, whether an observatory or a restroom, should be built to adapt to the environment, estetically as well as environmentally, and have the least long range impact on the mountain.

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Dr. John T. Jefferies
Institute for Astronomy
University of Hawaii
June 17, 1976

1. Would like to compliment the staff in effort of gathering facts, information and opinions.
2. Make following comments:
 - a. Text should be changed to reflect more accurately the vegetated area on Mauna Kea.
 - b. The boundaries and the regulations for the Ice Age Natural Area Reserve and the National Historic Landmark remain separate, so the intent of the Reserves would not be lost.
 - c. The Hale Pohaku mid-level facility should be jointly planned between D.L.N.R. and the University of Hawaii.



RANDAL JACKSON
Staff Planner