



HERBERT T. MATAYOSHI
MAYOR

Office of the Mayor

September 16, 1976

Mr. Christopher Cobb, Chairman
And
Members, Board of Land and
Natural Resources
State of Hawaii
P. O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Gentlemen:

My name is John Keppeler and I am the Managing Director of the County of Hawaii. On behalf of Mayor Herbert T. Matayoshi, I wish to thank the Board for giving the County of Hawaii the opportunity to meet with you and express our concerns regarding the Mauna Kea Master Plan.

We wish to apologize if our concerns are not expressed in sufficient detail as we would want our presentation to be; however, we only received the staff report on Tuesday afternoon, September 14, and, therefore, have not had sufficient time to prepare a detailed analysis.

We will comment on the various sections in the order that they appear in the report.

1. Management Areas

a. Mamane/Naio Forest Ecosystem.

We agree with the statement made on the cover letter accompanying the report--that the evidence is not conclusive--which is supported by other testimony received in public hearings that there are many reasons for the decline of the mamane forest--not only sheep. It is our recommendation that since the section entitled: "Preservation of Native Ecosystems" in the Advisory Committee's report contains a more positive course of action to be followed in order to gain the information necessary for the Board to arrive at a definite course of action in the future, that said section should be substituted into the staff's report.

We have no objections to retaining paragraphs 1 and 2 of the staff report with an amendment to paragraph 2--after the word "area", the phrase "including but not limited to" be inserted and the words "limited" and "however" be deleted.

The Advisory Committee's section entitled "Hunting Recreation" should also be substituted for the comments made on pages 4-5 of the staff report on the issue of hunting. The staff report is vague and arbitrary regarding "removal by the staff, if necessary, of feral sheep and goats within a three year period." The Committee's report provides a positive course of action to be taken.

2. Science Reserve Management Area

We have no objections to paragraph one.

Paragraph two should include "County" and the section be amended to read "under County, State and Federal laws."

The Committee's section entitled "Winter-Snow Activities" should be substituted for paragraph three since the responsibility for expenses, etc., is on the user. The staff report fails to mention this and the burden should not be on the taxpayer.

The Committee's section entitled "Observatories" should be inserted as paragraph four. We strongly urge that the number of telescopes be limited to the number presently on the top of Mauna Kea.

Paragraph four should be amended to read:

"In the event an application for any proposed telescope beyond the existing number is made, the application shall be accompanied by a comprehensive justification, showing: 1) Public benefit to the people of Hawaii, in terms of employment opportunities, educational pursuit, and overall economic development; 2) Public necessity in terms of cooperative use of facilities and overall advancement of science and research; 3) Evidence that Mauna Kea is the only suitable site for such facility."

Should the above be met to the satisfaction of the Board, the Board may approve the application subject to the following conditions:

1. That a performance bond be filed with the Board equal to the amount of the construction contract to construct the telescope facilities, support facilities and to cover any other direct or indirect cost attributed to the project. Upon completion of the project to the satisfaction of the Board, the amount of the bond shall be reduced to 50% of its face amount or the estimated cost of removal of the facility, whichever amount is greater, to cover the cost of removal of the facility should that be necessary.

An additional paragraph should read as follows:

"The Lessee and approved sub-lessee shall observe and comply with Regulation 4 of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and with all other laws, ordinances, rules and regulations of the federal, state, municipal or county governments affecting the demised lands or improvements."

3. Special Natural Area

The paragraph entitled "Natural Area Reserve" in the Committee's report should be substituted for the staff report. The Committee's section is specific as to the areas involved whereas the proposed area by the staff, which is different from originally proposed, encompasses a huge area ranging from Hale Pohaku to the summit.

4. Silversword Management Area

We have no objections to this section.

5. Military Management Area

There are no objections to this section.

Special Problems

Hale Pohaku

We have no objections to paragraph one, except to recommend an amendment to the third sentence:

"The Hale Pohaku facility will consist of mid-level facilities for necessary research personnel for the

summit, a central point for management of the mountain, a day-use destination point for visitors and primitive overnight camping facilities."

We object to paragraph two in that the University of Hawaii is not the proper agency to prepare the master plan. The master plan should be prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources with input by the various agencies and organizations expressing an interest in use of the facilities. The master plan shall be approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

Pohakuloa State Facility

We have no objections to this section.

Due to the shortage of time, we would like to reserve the right to submit comments on the remainder of the report not covered today prior to final action being taken by the Board on the staff recommendations for Mauna Kea.

The County of Hawaii will make available its staff and personnel to work with the staff of the Department of Land and Natural Resources should the Board deem it necessary for the completion of the Mauna Kea Master Plan.

Very truly yours,

HERBERT T. MATAYOSHI, Mayor

By


JOHN T. KEPPELER
Managing Director