

Outrigger Telescopes Project
EIS Public Scoping Meeting
January 5, 2004
King Kamehameha Hotel, Kona, Hawaii

Facilitator Notes

Introduction

- Participant would like to make videotape footage available for NASA use/purchase.
- Reminder that scoping comments can be provided up through 2/16/04.

Speaker #1

- People who have participated in these discussions over the years are:
 - o Sad about the state not supporting them;
 - o Sad about not being heard;
 - o Sad about the Institute for Astronomy's failure to listen.
- We haven't settled the problem.
- Citizens are not compensated or financially supported for their participation in this process. We can't afford to participate constantly.
- Our need is to protect the mountain.
- Note: compositions (musical, written) are about Mauna Kea, not the observatories.
- We applaud those with the courage to rise to protest.
- Main concern: the failure to address concerns already raised.
- How many times must you be told "no?" Just go elsewhere. This land is filled with iwi – sacred bones.
- Money can't solve the problem. Listen to the problems and concerns cited already.
- Respect us for our heritage and our lands.
- Acts on the mountain represent terrorism.
- You need to learn about the mountain and the heritage too.
- This knowledge should be shared with children.
- Discussions were recently held with lineal descendants. You could show your interest by attending and listening to these concerns.
- Demonstrate more clearly to us that you've heard us. Listen to the tapes (Puhipau's videos).
- At the hearings more than 95% of the speakers were opposed to having this project here.
 - o There should be no further development.
 - o Couple-up. Use the same facilities.
 - o Existing buildings should be sufficient.
- The harm done/being done is immeasurable.

Speaker #2

- Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and Royal Order of Kamehameha - Identify scope of issues for the EIS.
- Speaker illustrated Mauna Kea.
- Given life from the land, without the land there is no life.
- There are cultural issues of survival.
- (Note that Mauna Kea's proximity to the island's principle aquifer (mole) warrants more comprehensive hydrological assessment).

Speaker #3

- Speaker drew Mauna Kea.
- Mauna Kea most sacred mountain to Hawaiians.
- Asked NASA to honor that sacredness.

Speaker #4

- There should be an effort to capture the essence of the cosmological, cultural, and historical views of Hawaiians. This information should be made known/knowable to those connected with work on the mountain.

Speaker #5

- Mauna Kea Board Environmental Committee member with natural science perspectives:
 - o Our names have been used, but not our mana'o.
 - o Information presented this evening by the speaker was prepared 2 years ago. This is the first opportunity to present it. Speaker also participated in the contested case hearing.
 - Keep a “no build” option open.
 - If you want NASA to be a model of how to work appropriately with the community:
 - Acknowledge that the draft EA was weak. Commentors went without a response for 18 months.
 - The final EA came out with only 3 days to prepare for the conservation district (?) use hearing at DLNR. There was not enough time for the community members to review the 400-page document.
 - There was little or no opportunity for any give and take on the comments. It could have been a “good faith” opportunity for NASA to engage in dialogue with the community.
 - The goal was to recommend ways to protect species and aspects of the Mountain. Intended to propose management strategies and plans.
 - Would like NASA to provide disclosure regarding the amount of federal funds spent on the EIS.
 - Cumulative impacts were ignored. Various “reserves: have been significantly altered by human presence and actions on the mountain.
 - A thorough survey of biota was not conducted.
 - Population of species (Wekiu bugs) in serious decline.
 - Until recently – species thought to be at very high risk. New evidence of Wekiu presence suggests continuing presence, but you need to look at cumulative impacts.
 - The EA didn't reflect/mitigate cumulative impact. There is a need to know more about the Wekiu. What about other species? What about the introduction of alien species. Lack of collection of data and documentation of findings then – a problem now.
 - UH failed to keep 1983 and 1985 promises. UH promised that studies, monitoring and reporting would be conducted regularly in conjunction with a public advisory component.
 - NASA, IFA, and others should contribute to a fund to protect and preserve cultural and environmental resources.
 - Hospitality was extended by the community for 1 telescope. Then there were 6 telescopes, then 13 and then.....All the while the fundamental protections for the area were ignored.
 - There should be multi-season monitoring for the term of the lease.
 - Look at the entire summit. NASA is looking at the management of a small portion of the whole. The area needs to be approached in total.
 - Baseline information needed on a number of items.
 - Road corridor/reserves should be noted.
 - Map sites; historical and otherwise.
 - Need to survey vascular/non-fauna.

- Microbial status at Waiau Lake.
 - Invertebrates.
 - Native and alien species.
 - Know the impact before going further.
- There has been illegal access.
 - Look at impacts of underground power lines and infrastructure.
 - The interior of a cone was leveled, graded and compacted despite EA that specifically cited impacts for that locale.
 - NASA should consider soliciting community input into who is hired to perform various types of work.
 - Hydrology should look at the 45,000 gallons of sewage. Ice conditions may direct substances laterally.
 - Cable emplacement, runoff, dust, mercury spills are sources of concern. There are 10,000 pages of data not addressed in the EA.
 - DLNR/NARS – compare.
 - NASA should compile a library of scientific information and data that can be archived at OMKM.
 - Limited floral study in '82 + literature searches conducted in 98 need to be updated with regard to potential impacts.
 - Look at the tourism impact – trampling on resources.
 - Look at all human impacts.
 - Alien invertebrates should be assessed noting altitude and spread relative to access corridors and plant species. ID them and appropriate remedial steps.
 - EA did a good job re: treatment of vans and trucks. You need to look at cumulative impacts. If protective practice (re undercarriage of vehicles) makes sense for one site – then it should apply across the board to other summit entities.
 - Biotic resources should be viewed as part of cultural resources. Damage to biota results in damage to the culture.
 - Develop future goals together.

Speaker #6

- NASA should take into consideration impact on this sacred site.
- Poor past performance is evidence that these issues have not been taken seriously enough. This makes it hard to hope for anything more responsible/responsive going forward.
- This area is designated “kapu” for sacred purposes. You need to hear this and take this seriously.
- This issue has impact on Hawaiians on other islands too.

Speaker #7

- Concerned that NASA as representative of the US government will bring military presence to the Mountain. The military hasn't been respectful in its dealings here.
- A participant reported having gone to the 9200' level once to attend a lecture. She was stopped by military police. It was a frightening experience for her.

Speaker #8

- Kahu Ku Mauna and Ahahui Ku Mauna object to any new construction of astronomy facilities on the mountain.
- Volumes of information were passed on to John Lee. We want this information used in the EIS.
- We don't want to see that information bypassed or forgotten. It should be incorporated into the EIS.
- We see the facilities as having negative impact on this cultural and sacred site. They compromise the spiritual ambiance of the mountain. We want NASA to “get” this.
- Do this with sincerity. This is so emotional – we want to see this in the EIS. ... what it means to the Hawaiian community.

Speaker #9

- There are some good things to note. When NASA was told that the EA was inadequate NASA decided to do an EIS. This is exemplary. Congratulations.
- General lease to the UH is on ceded lands. Under section 5F of the Admissions Act. UH has this general lease, in part, because of the educational purposes of the astronomical activity on the mountain.
- There are big bucks on the mountain as a result of findings, developments, patents, and technologies based on work done on the mountain. Therefore, the UH's educational purpose on the mountain may not be fulfilled. (Commercial vs educational focus?)
- Lots of resources invested to explore "Big Bang", but not string theory or cosmological issues.
- Some question the allocation of these financial resources to investigating things so far beyond our ken and our lives.
- Hawaiians practice religion(s) up there. Practitioner's approaches vary, as do those of families.
- The astronomy community has not responded to audit report cites.
- The report notes that the UH is making "progress" to comply, but efforts are slow, and inconclusive.
- Breaches of past promises raise questions about likelihood of fulfilling new promises. Leopards don't change their spots.
- CDU is in question.
- Operational agreements re: Keck II...IFA will do operating agreement after it gets the permit.
- This scoping meeting is on the federal level. CDUA contested case is being addressed on the state level. Bifurcation of the issue is confusing and time consuming for the community to cover.
- The federal EA was inadequate – will now have to do an EIS.
- State and the UH are not intending to do anything about changing practices.
- Lots of small battles make it hard for the community to participate effectively. The state and federal processes should be integrated into a single action.
- IFA claims it represents other parties on the summit, but no operational agreement exists between IFA and NASA.
- IFA, Caltech, Keck, and NASA have no agreement.
- Dr. Brenner studies involving traps for Wekiu counts actually precipitate the death of the specimens. Collection methodology is problematic.
- The number of Wekiu decreased 99.7% from what was present before.
- UH now functioning as an umbrella entity and makes its own rules. The community bears the burden and expense of accountability.
- Who takes responsibility for the mistakes? Who pays for them? No disciplinary action or firings have occurred in response to spills and/or other problems.

Speaker #10

- We've been doing this process for a long, long, time. We have low degree of confidence in yet another round.
- Aloha is about telling the truth/diplomacy. Community members have their own "rank" and standing in our community.
- Please consider our beliefs:
 - o If NASA proposed to put the outriggers in the Vatican-lots of opposition would result.
 - o When Hawaiians say "no" or object to something, they are not taken seriously because we convey our concerns with aloha.
 - o You promote the perception that if we don't do this project, astronomy won't get done.
- Don't extend the footprint on the Mountain!
- We believe we always have a chance to "huli lau" or turnover a new leaf...but....
- We're citizens using a process to help decision makers make informed decisions. We're having a problem with trusting "good faith" required by NEPA process.
- NEPA, NASA, and UH scoping combined with the contested case hearing - the timing is problematic. DLNR board hasn't given approval for the permit. Putting the scoping process before the permit has been granted.
- UH and others have resources. The community doesn't. It's the same process.
- The university is announcing yet more telescopes before this issue is resolved.
- Cumulative impact involves past, present, and future. This notion is all the more important here given that there is no baseline since '83.
- In preparation for the contested case hearing – the community collected data re: sewage and hazardous waste. UH non-compliance around these issues put this, now, on NASA's shoulders.
- Comprehensive cinder cone hydrology assessment should be understood. Glaciation dynamic is important to Hawaiian healing practices. The ice, snow, and lake all play a role.
- The community is poorly equipped to engage in the process in a meaningful way without resources.
- There is no burial treatment plan for Mauna Kea. Why is UH exempt from this?
- Lineal and cultural descendants' needs should be addressed via preparation and adherence to such a plan. Modern Hawaiian burials are continuing there today.
- A cultural impact statement is needed.
- Kēpa – appreciate his participation in cultural impact statement.
- Visual impacts/visual vistas need to be viewed from the mountain top to the ocean and from the ocean to the mountain – note the movement and appearance of the shadows.
- Bodily forms of deities are affected by construction on them.
- Some ceremonial practices are compromised because there is no longer a 360 degree unobstructed view from the summit.
- Kūkahau`ula – traditional cultural property has been listed as a historic district. Deity - after which the Pu`u is named.
- Cultural use of landscape will be degraded to a point where practices are not possible anymore.
- Make provision for community recommending names for hydrology study – or for possible participation in a peer review process.
- Ua`u (?), a high altitude petrel has not been addressed. Are they still there?
- Hawaiian creation chant: the loss of one thing can precipitate the unraveling of the rest...

Speaker #11

- 1/3-2/3 of the Mauna Kea Management Board environment committee meetings have been cancelled. Very frustrating.
- At one environmental committee meeting there was discussion about the removal of temporary telescopes – purportedly due to the lack of sufficient interferometer performance. If this is true, does it make sense to continue with the outriggers? Can they do what is expected?
- Consider the “no build” option seriously.

Speaker #12

- Breaches in the past make it difficult to consider going forward. Does the science justify the proposed increases in impact and changes to the summit?
- Respect the burials of thousands of our ancestors.
- Respect the mountain, our religious rights, our culture, the water and the animals.
- It's difficult for some of us to understand the scientific focus and ways.
- How can you spend all of this effort in looking for new worlds when you can't even take care of what is here? Malama the earth!

Closing Comments

- Notes from the community discussions will be posted for viewing on www.keckobservatory.org