



Statement in Support of Mauna a Wākea / Maunakea

Sustainability Committee of Hawai'i Community College

November 26, 2019

The Sustainability Committee of Hawai'i Community College stands in support of the environmental-cultural integrity of Mauna a Wākea / Maunakea, and of those who work to protect that integrity. In the worldview indigenous to Hawai'i, culture and environment are part of the same whole: cultural well-being is reflected in environmental well-being, and vice versa, and we share this holistic perspective and the expression of it through our actions. The renowned 'ōlelo no'eau (poetical saying) *He ali 'i ka 'āina, he kauwā ke kanaka* reminds us that we are at the service of the environment of which we are part.

The Sustainability Committee recognizes the value in supporting sustainable practices with regard to the Mauna, including, but not limited to: cultural practices rooted in reciprocity and deep genealogical connection; the integrity of the watersheds and aquifers associated with the Mauna; respect for the body of fresh water known as Waiau; the special climatic and atmospheric conditions that include the creation of snow, manifested as Poli'ahu and the mist who is Līlīnoe, as well as those that produce deep pink coloration of the summit region to remind us of Kūkahau'ula and of love; the preservation of unique forms of endemic and indigenous biota including arthropods such as the wēkiu bug (*nysius wekiuicola*) and wolf spider (*lycosa sp.*), birds such as the palila (*loxioides bailleui*) and 'ua'u (*pterodroma sandwichensis*), native mosses and lichens, plants such as 'āhinahina or silversword (*argyroxiphium sandwicense*), nohoanu (*geranium cuneatum*), 'ena'ena (*pseudognaphalium sandwicense*), and māmane (*sophora chrysophylla*); the preservation of a volcanic summit exposed to glaciation, which includes the various types of pōhaku (rocks) of immeasurable cultural, historical and geologic significance, unique substrates, and numerous pu'u (cinder cones) serving as habitats, orientation markers, and burial sites and carry the names of akua (environmental elements); preservation of indigenous land divisions including wao (horizontal social-ecological management zones) such as wao akua, wao nāhele, kualono, kuahea, kuamauna, as well as the ahupua'a (mauka-makai land division) named Ka'ohe, connoting the abundance, conveyance, and offering of fresh water, life itself. Such protections can be afforded to Mauna a Wākea through culturally-sensitive and careful stewardship, including ensuring a minimal ecological human footprint, native reforestation efforts, water quality monitoring, applied research supporting the regeneration of unique lifeforms of the Mauna, mitigation of climate change impacts, promotion of traditional cultural practices associated with the Mauna, and heightening the awareness on the part of our Kauhale and larger community of the vital connections we all necessarily have with Mauna a Wākea as island residents.

We, the Sustainability Committee of Hawai'i Community College, reiterate our support of Mauna a Wākea and of our students, alumni, colleagues, associates, friends and all others who nurture and promote the well-being of the Mauna at its most pristine.

For more information about the Sustainability Committee at Hawai'i Community College, please contact Drew Kapp at dkapp@hawaii.edu and/or Debbie Weeks at daweeks@hawaii.edu. Mahalo.