

# HAWAIIAN CULTURAL MONITOR FOR CALTECH SUBMILLIMETER <u>TELESCOPE DECOMMISSIONING</u>

#### **PROJECT COMPLETION SUMMARY**

Hawaiian Cultural Monitors:

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Start Date: September 13, 2022

End Date: June 28, 2024

# Client: CALTECH

#### 1. Overview:

The project aimed to ensure that the decommissioning of the Caltech Submillimeter Telescope was carried out with respect for Hawaiian cultural practices and traditions. A Hawaiian Cultural Monitor was appointed to oversee and guide the process, ensuring compliance with cultural protocols and community expectations.

# 2. Key Deliverables:

- Appointment of a qualified Hawaiian Cultural Monitor.
- Development and implementation of a cultural monitoring plan.
- Daily on-site cultural monitoring during decommissioning activities.
- Final report documenting cultural compliance and activities to include dust, oil, trash, and containment of hazardous materials by experts in their respective field.
- Daily cultural protocols and blessing before commencement of scope of work.

# 3. Achievements:

- Successful appointment of a well-respected Hawaiian Cultural Monitor.
- Comprehensive cultural monitoring plan was developed in collaboration with TayMade Productions LLC and Center of Maunakea Stewardship with respect to Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian people) and the significance of Maunakea.
- All decommissioning activities conducted in accordance with cultural protocols.
- Positive feedback from the Hawaiian community regarding the respectful

approach taken.

#### 4. Challenges:

- Navigating complex cultural sensitivities and ensuring all team members were adequately trained.
- Coordinating schedules between the decommissioning team and each Hawaiian Cultural Monitor for cultural orientation.
- Addressing unexpected weather conditions and issues with equipment delaying scope of work for the day.
- Special cases for brief work at the CSO site, an on-site cultural orientation was conducted by either a Hawaiian Cultural Monitor or a member from Maunakea Stewardship.

# 5. Summary of Logistics:

- The project was completed on schedule.
- Caltech provided accommodations for all Hawaiian Cultural Monitors at The Onizuka Center for International Astronomy, which allowed the safety and well being of all cultural monitors to acclimate with high altitudes and perform necessary duties for the project.
- Caltech provided vehicle reservations with Sunbelt Rentals for Hawaiian Cultural Monitors to report to Maunakea summit per construction schedule and readily available to respond to project needs.
- To avoid unnecessary delays with the project and to ensure the availability of Hawaiian Cultural Monitors, Caltech directly covered expenses for lodging, meals, fuel, and a 4WD truck rental, thereby relieving Hawaiian Cultural Monitors of any financial burden.

# 6. Timeline:

• The project adhered to the original timeline with minimal deviations. Any delays were promptly addressed and managed.

### 7. Feedback:

- The client, Caltech, expressed satisfaction with the respectful and thorough approach to Hawaiian cultural monitoring.
- Positive acknowledgment received from individual Hawaiians from our community for honoring cultural practices.
- Center of Maunakea Stewardship grateful for TayMade Productions LLC conducting cultural orientation for contractors, subcontractors, and individuals during the project.
- Goodfellow Brothers Inc, m3 Engineering, and Lehua Environmental all appreciated the flexibility to schedule a cultural orientation for their employees, ensuring all staff members received cultural orientation as directed.

#### 8. Best Practices Established:

- Early and continuous engagement with cultural representatives were crucial.
- Flexibility and sensitivity to cultural needs can prevent potential conflicts.
- Transparency and accountability were established.
- Training for all team members on cultural protocols enhances project success.
- Daily prayer covering for spiritual awareness and safety for all team members.
- Cultural orientation for every team member participating in any facet of the decommissioning was mandatory.
- Daily team communication with all members were essential to scope of work and daily project goals.
- Daily documentation of activities with photos were essential.
- Cultural monitors' initiatives were to be present on site first and last to leave daily from the project site.

#### 9. Future Recommendations:

- Establish clear cultural protocols at the beginning of similar projects.
- Maintain open lines of communication with Hawaiian Cultural Monitors and community representatives.
- Document cultural practices and procedures for future reference and projects.
- Mandatory cultural orientation with all participating contractors, subcontractors, vendors, and organizations should be conducted to keep everyone as a cohesive group.

#### 10. Conclusion

The decommissioning of the Caltech Submillimeter Telescope was completed successfully, with full adherence to Hawaiian Cultural protocols. The project highlights the importance of cultural sensitivity in scientific endeavors and serves as a model for future decommissioning projects. The team is commended for their dedication and respectful approach.