

On December 21, NASA announced the start of its EIS process to determine the potential impacts of building up to 6 new telescopes on the sacred summit of Mauna Kea. Public scoping meetings begin January 5 in Kona.

Mauna Kea is perhaps the most sacred site to Hawaiian people and also to people throughout Polynesia. Mauna Kea serves as the zenith of the Hawaiian people's ancestral connection to Creation and to the spirit of creation. It is a profoundly sacred place.

For more information about Mauna Kea, please visit <http://www.kahea.org/>

"Scoping" provides the public with the opportunity to identify all of the issues that NASA must consider in the development of the EIS, including environmental, social, cultural, religious, economic or whatever you think should be addressed.

Please refer to the *list of concerns* that need to be raised in the scoping comments. ([link](#))

The inopportune "holiday" rush job is not lost on any of us. We should formally request that the public be given more time to prepare for this very important process and that people on each Island (particularly the Native Hawaiian community) are directly encouraged to participate in the scoping process.

The deadline for providing written comments is: February 16, 2004.

In early February, KAHEA will be sending out an Action Alert to those who have signed up with our Action Alert Network in order to facilitate public commenting.

Sign up with KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance [Action Alert Network](#)

Mahalo nui loa.

For those unable to participate, comments can be provided in writing or electronically.

Office of Space Science Code SZ
NASA Headquarters
300 E Street, SW
Washington D.C. 20546-0001

Email comments to: otpeis@nasa.gov and cc to: kahea-alliance@hawaii.rr.com

Notice of scoping meetings (From Legal Notice 12/21/03 Honolulu Advertiser)

Monday, January 5, 2004, King Kamehameha Beach Hotel; 75-5660 Palani Rd, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740 (paid parking at the hotel will be free for attendees);

Wednesday, January 7, 2004, Hawaii Naniloa; 93 Banyan Dr, Hilo, HI 96720
(parking is free)

Thursday, January 8, 2004, Waimea YMCA; 67-1435 Mamalahoa Hwy, Kamuela, HI 96743
(parking is free)

Monday, January 12, 2004; Japanese Cultural Center; 2554 S. Beretania St. Honolulu, HI 96726
(paid parking at Cultural Center will be free for attendees)

Tuesday, January 13, 2004, Wai'anae District Park; 85-601 Farrington Hwy, Wai'anae, HI 96826
(parking is free)

All meetings begin with informal Open House (5:15-6:15). The formal meeting for public comments begins at 6:30 pm. NASA plans to have a Hawaiian language translator at each meeting.
NASA toll-free at 877-283-1977 with any questions.