Kū I Ka Mauna:
Understanding the Haleakalā and Mauna Kea Appeals and What They Mean for Native Hawaiians

Today, many are standing up because of our sacred mountains. Attorneys Richard Naiwieha Wurdeman and David Kimo Frankel argued two separate but related cases before the Hawaiʻi Supreme Court regarding the issuance of conservation district use permits to build telescopes on Mauna Kea and Haleakalā. On both summits, the Board of Land and Natural Resources issued permits for construction activities without first allowing community members the opportunity to participate in contested case proceedings. Central to both cases is the issue of whether these developments would have a substantial impact on crucial natural and cultural resources. Decisions from the Hawaiʻi Supreme Court are expected soon.

Come and learn about these two seminal appeals, including what it took to get them before the Court, the key legal issues, and what the potential outcomes could mean for Native Hawaiians and Hawaiʻi nei.

Richard Naiwieha Wurdeman is a solo practitioner and proud graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law. He has served as the past President and is a current Director of the Native Hawaiian Bar Association. Naiwi has also litigated significant land use, real property, and Native Hawaiian rights cases. In August 2015, he argued the Mauna Kea Thirty Meter Telescope appeal before the Hawaiʻi Supreme Court on behalf of appellants, challenging the construction of one of the world’s largest telescopes on Mauna Kea.

David Kimo Frankel is an attorney with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation, the only non-profit public interest law firm concentrating on Native Hawaiian Law. David focuses on native rights and land use issues and has worked to protect cultural sites throughout Hawaiʻi nei. He has litigated a number of cases significant to Native Hawaiians, including four lawsuits on behalf of Kilakila ‘o Haleakalā challenging the construction of a massive solar telescope on the summit of Haleakalā. In April 2015, he argued Kilakila ‘o Haleakalā v. Board of Land and Natural Resources before the Hawaiʻi Supreme Court.

*Moderated by: Professor David Forman

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Maoli Thursday is a lunchtime forum & speaker series held every first Thursday of the month. Refreshments will be served if you RSVP by Tuesday, November 3rd by noon at www2.hawaii.edu/~kahuliao