



**For Immediate Release**

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**Learning Astronomy with Maunakea Trading Cards**

*Topic for Maunakea Skies April 17 at 'Imiloa*

Hilo, Hawai'i –Deal a galactic hand in this months “Maunakea Skies” program at 'Imiloa when Dr. Kumiko Usuda, Subaru Telescope, shows how the *Mauna Kea Brand Astronomy Trading Cards* can be used to teach about our Solar System, the Milky Way galaxy and other galaxies. This program is on Saturday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in the planetarium.

Before Dr. Usuda's presentation, “Maunakea Skies” host Shawn Laatsch, planetarium manager, will provide observational highlights of the spring night-time skies over Hawai'i, pointing out prominent constellations and stars one can see during this time of year.

Kumiko Usuda's *Mauna Kea Brand Astronomy Trading Cards* is a wonderful tool that uses beautiful astronomical images of the 13 Maunakea telescopes to help share information about the Universe and these facilities used to study it. The audience will fly into the Solar System and Milky Way in 3D, learn how to use the cards and receive a free set to take home!

Kumiko Usuda's research involves studying gasses in the Milky Way. She came to Hilo in 1998 to complete her Ph.D from Tokyo University, and is now the Subaru Telescope's outreach scientist. She loves to talk astronomy to preschoolers and students grade K-12 in Hawai'i and Japan. In 2009, the international year of astronomy, she led four projects: The Cosmic Poster Contest, Mauna Kea Brand Astronomy Trading Cards, the Galileo Block Party and Japan's 400 Years of Astronomical Telescopes poster. Visit <http://www.naoj.org/staff/kumiko> for more details about her outreach activities and IYA

projects. Find out more about the *Mauna Kea Brand Astronomy Trading Cards* at <http://www.naoj.org/IYA/Cards>.

The monthly “Maunakea Skies” planetarium presentations are held on the third Saturday of each month, and replaces the Center’s previous “Directors’ Lecture Series” held for the International Year of Astronomy in 2009. Presented in ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center’s 120-seat planetarium, admission is \$5 for ‘Imiloa members and \$8 for non-members. Pre-purchase tickets at the ‘Imiloa front desk or by phone at (808) 969-9704; Visa and MasterCard accepted.

‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i is located at 600 ‘Imiloa Place in Hilo, off Komohana and Nowelo Streets at the UH-Hilo Science and Technology Park. For more information, go to [www.imiloahawaii.org](http://www.imiloahawaii.org), or call (808) 969-9703.

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## ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i

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[www.imiloahawaii.org](http://www.imiloahawaii.org)

The planetarium at ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i is the first in the world to have 3D stereoscopic capabilities. The planetarium’s revolutionary technology gives us new ways to learn about Hawaiian star navigation and discoveries from the observatories at Mauna Kea.



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Figure 1 the Joker Card

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