



## ‘IMILOA FACT SHEET

### OVERVIEW

‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i is a part of the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo (UH-Hilo) and encompasses 40,000 square feet, including office space, located on 9.1 acres overlooking Hilo Bay on the UH-Hilo Science and Technology campus in Hilo, on the island of Hawai‘i.

- **Main exhibit gallery:** 12,000 sq. ft.
- **Planetarium:** 16-meter horizontal dome, seats 120+ four spaces for special needs
- **Restaurant:** 2,000 sq. ft., seats 100, with panoramic views of gardens
- **Class Room:** 850 sq. ft. with classroom seating for 30, equipped with the latest in AV equipment and internet capability
- **Moanahoku (Ocean of Stars) Special Events Hall:** 2,500 sq. ft. with capacity for 350 people standing, 160 seated
- **Museum Store:** 700 sq. ft. featuring quality books on astronomy and Hawaiian navigation and culture, activity learning kits, *keiki* (children’s) items, and souvenirs

### BUILDING FEATURES

- **Environmental efficiency:** The facility is built and designed for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification to meet the U.S. Green Building Council’s requirements for ecological excellence. The building is composed of 75 percent recycled material and houses systems to control power and light consumption and provide overall environmental efficiency.
- **Landscaping:** The award-winning, innovative landscaping features indigenous, endemic and “canoe” plants (plants brought by early Polynesian navigators). The landscaping mirrors the changing plant life found as one ascends from oceanfront to volcano.
- **Mosaic:** The Lobby entrance features “Voyage of the Navigator,” a floor mosaic created by Big Island artist Clayton Young. Measuring 14 feet in diameter, the mosaic is handcrafted with 140,000 half-inch superheated powdered glass tile pieces manufactured by leading Italian tile production company Bisazza, which donated the gold-leaf tile for the stars in the mosaic.

### EXHIBITS

- ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i features more than 100 exhibits, many interactive, all custom-designed for ‘Imiloa.
- Major exhibits and areas include:
  - Piko: Hawai‘i’s Connections to Maunakea and Stars
  - Kūmūlipo Theater: Hawaiian Origins Chant
  - Origins of the Universe: Our solar system as it relates to the Milky Way galaxy and Universe.
  - Voyages: Hawaiian voyaging
  - 4D2U Theater: Voyage Through Space

- Cosmic Questions: Theater show and interactive astronomy tools-based exhibits.

### **SCIENCE ON A SPHERE**

- Created and provided to us by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- Science on a Sphere (SOS)<sup>®</sup> is a room-sized, global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe

### **VIEWSPACE**

- Constantly changing, updated astronomy and space-based earth science news and information
- A presentation from the NASA Space Telescope Science Institute

### **PLANETARIUM**

- World's first planetarium to install full dome 3-D stereoscopic capability. Viewers use 3-D spectrally-notched glasses to view images projected using Sky-Skan *definiti 3-D* theater technology.
- The Planetarium features state-of-the-art, full dome digital theater system with six-channel surround sound.
- The Planetarium's signature show "Maunakea: Between Earth and Sky" is shown daily along with rotating quarterly and monthly featured shows.
- Experience ʻImiloa's 3D stereoscopic technology and learn about the new discoveries being made daily by the observatories atop Maunakea. The "Awesome Light" is a series of two shows: *Discoveries from the Telescopes of Maunakea* and *Exploring Radio and Submillimeter Space*. Both include a live, in-depth sky presentation of stars, constellations and planets visible in the night sky. They also showcases the Hawaiian star lines used in traditional celestial navigation.

### **FUNDING AND OPERATIONS**

- Total construction cost: \$28 million
- Capital construction costs were funded by federal grants, including grants from NASA for planning and construction
- Operated under the auspices of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo

### **CONSTRUCTION, DESIGN AND EXHIBIT RECOGNITION**

- Building – Taisei Construction Company
- Architect – Mel Choy, M5 Architecture (formerly Durrant-Media Five)
- Exhibit Design – AldrichPears Associates
- Exhibit Fabrication – The Taylor Group
- Kumulipo Theater – Science North
- 4D2U Theater – Donated and installed – National Astronomical Observatory of Japan, the Subaru Telescope

- Landscape Design – Randall Monaghan

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