



‘IMILOA
Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i

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Media Contacts:

Jeff Harman
808-969-9705
jharman@imiloahawaii.org

Vincent Recinto
808-969-9714
vrecinto@imiloahawaii.org

Moons, Moons Everywhere
Topic for next Maunakea Skies Talk

Hilo, Hawai‘i – Have you ever looked at the Moon and wonder how it came to be? Dr. Bo Reipurth will help answer those questions at the next “Maunakea Skies” talk entitled *Moons, Moons Everywhere* on Saturday, March 19, at 7:00pm at ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center.

The solar system is being observed regularly by telescopes on top of Maunakea and elsewhere, and space probes continue to explore ever more distant realms. One surprising result has been the discovery of numerous moons to the outer planets. By the latest count 170 moons are now known, and the number keeps climbing. Not only are moons found to be very common, but they are surprisingly different.

Dr. Reipurth’s talk will tour the moons of our solar system, starting with a discussion of what we have learnt over the years about the nearest of all moons, our own Moon. Fly out through the solar system and visit the many different moons. After passing by the two small moons of Mars, explore the huge four inner Galilean moons of the giant planet Jupiter. Learn about the possibility of finding moons around some of the more than 500 exoplanets now found orbiting other stars. Some of these moons may be ideal places for other life to develop.

As a small child, one of Bo Reipurth’s first astronomical experiences was looking at the craters of the Moon and the rings of Saturn through the telescope at a public observatory in his native Copenhagen. After that experience, he never doubted that he would become an astronomer.

Reipurth received his PhD from the University of Copenhagen in 1981. After several years there as a postdoctoral researcher, he worked as a staff astronomer with the European Southern Observatory in Chile for 11 years. He then spent four years at the Center for Astrophysics and Space Astronomy(CASA) of the University of Colorado as a research professor. He joined the IfA in Honolulu in 2001 and moved to the Hilo office in 2004.

Reipurth is the coauthor (with frequent collaborator John Bally) of "The Birth of Stars and Planets". Published in 2006 by Cambridge University Press, it contains many beautiful color pictures of sites of starbirth and text that is very accessible to nonscientists. He is also a member of the UH NASA Astrobiology Institute Lead Team, a cross-disciplinary group that is studying the relationship of water in the Universe to the development of life.

Before Dr. Reipurth's presentation, Maunakea Skies host Peter Michaud, Gemini Observatory, 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.

The monthly Maunakea Skies planetarium presentations are held on the third Saturday of each month. 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, or call (808) 969-9703.

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