

Canada France Hawai'i Telescope (CFHT) Update

SUBARU Users Meeting

June 18, 2026

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Maunakea is the land of the Kānaka ‘ōiwi people, and a mountain of considerable cultural, natural, and ecological significance to the Indigenous Hawaiian people.

Scientific excellence, community engagement, and mutual stewardship are essential to the future of astronomy.



CFHT Updates – Staff Changes

- Arrivals:
 - Natasha Haque, Director of Engineering
 - James Ou, Support astronomer
 - Kody Rubio, Systems administrator
 - Melinda Mercedes, Instrument Specialist

- Departures: Driss Kouach, Greg Green, Kevin Ho

Ten-Year Strategic Plan - Goals

Two overarching goals received from our Board:

1. obtaining a new lease (2033)
2. operating CFHT as a “viable operational entity” until 2033

Ten-Year Strategic Plan – Input parameters

- Time, timeline: 2033 & beyond
- Input from users, Time Allocation Committees, Science Advisory Council, Board, CFHT staff

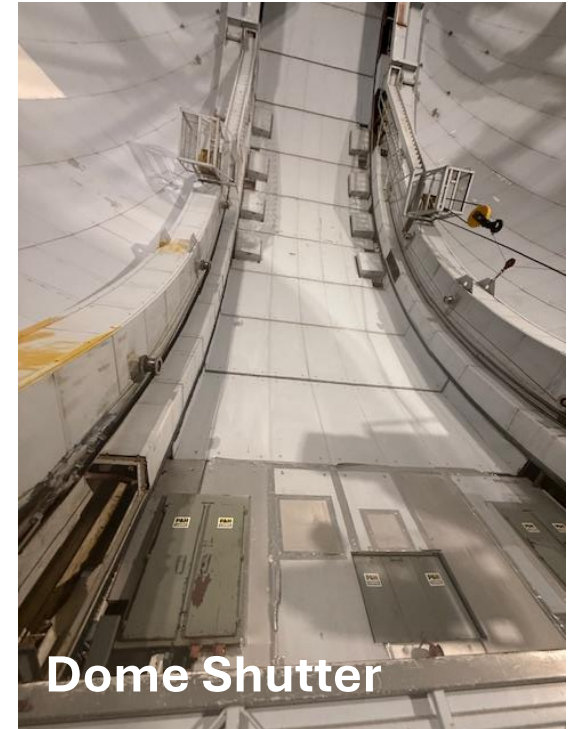
- Technical aspects (needs)
- Financial constraints
- Scientific aspects
- Community aspects

Ten-Year Strategic Plan – Components

CFHT strategic plan:

- I. Deferred maintenance & streamlined operations
- II. Community (legacy) surveys spanning the period 2027-2033
- III. Contribute to the development of a community astronomy model

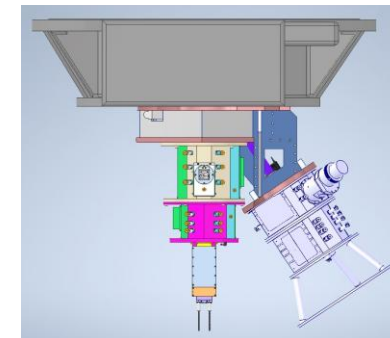
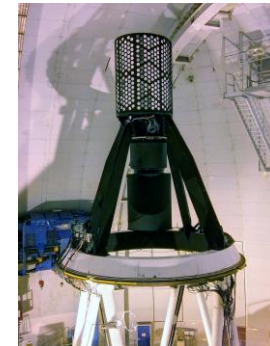
I – Deferred Maintenance & Streamlined Operations



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- 2 instruments will be decommissioned on January 31, 2027:
 - WIRCam – NIR imager
 - SITELLE – optical Fourier Transform Spectro-imager

- Remaining instruments:
 - MegaCam – optical wide field of view imager
 - Wenaookeao: co-mount of the spectropolarimeters ESPaDOnS (optical) and SPIRou (NIR)



II – Community Surveys

- Led by the community of astronomers in Canada, France, and potentially UH.
- Ambitious, high legacy value, high impact surveys
- 800–1400 nights, over a 6-year period (2027B–2033A)
- Call for Proposals resulted in 3 submissions
- Technical and scientific reviews ongoing
- Board decision in April 2027

	Publications per night
All PI papers (from 1980)	0.30
Large Program papers	0.75
CFHT Legacy Survey (CFHTLS)	1.5

III – Community Astronomy

- Local (Hawai‘i) outreach and community engagement activities:
 - AstroDay Hilo and Kona - Summer Fun Program with portable planetarium
 - Pilot program for teacher education and support (multiplicative effect)
 - Ho‘okama‘āina series for CFHT staff members: cultural learning and hands-on stewardship activities (remove invasive plants – plant trees)
- Regular interactions between the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority and Maunakea Observatories leaders
- Participation of CFHT staff members in community discussions and collaborations
- Raise awareness within the astronomy community of the need for a community-based model for astronomy, as recommended in the Astro2020 report

Closing

Projecting CFHT into the new lease:

- Improving reliability (deferred maintenance) and streamlining operations
- Community / Legacy Surveys through 2033, 1000+ nights
- Actively working on Community Engagement and promoting a Community-based Astronomy model