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## Kulani prison workers allege gas leaks making them ill

Files document repeated trips to Hilo hospital; faulty vehicles being blamed

By Chris Loos  
Tribune-Herald

Two employees at Kulani Correctional Facility had to be treated for carbon monoxide poisoning 10 days ago. It was the latest in a series of

emergency room visits caused by exposure to the poisonous gas, which apparently leaks from the exhaust systems of vehicles that transport prison workers about 19 miles up Stainback Highway to the minimum-security prison.

Dr. Fred Holschuh, an emergency room physician at Hilo Medical Center, confirmed that carbon monoxide exposure is a problem for the workers but would not give details because of doctor-patient privilege. Holschuh did say, however, that on Sept. 9 he voiced his concerns to prison officials.

"There's no question that this needs to be addressed," Holschuh

said.

Kulani Warden Peter MacDonald said the carbon monoxide problem is the consequence of overloaded old vehicles traveling too fast on a bad road.

MacDonald said that although he has been unable to get information from hospital administrators about the severity of the symptoms, a recreation specialist who was treated in the emer-

gency room on Sept. 9 reported that his carbon monoxide reading was twice the normal level.

Kulani employees told the Tribune-Herald that prison administrators are ignoring the complaints of workers who face routine exposure to the fumes, an allegation that MacDonald denies.

"We're spending literally tens of thousands of dollars to try to fix this," he said Tuesday.

On May 20, 32 people were riding to the prison on an old school bus from a staging area just above Highway 11 when many of them began to experience headaches, dizziness, nausea and feelings of general discomfort. They were taken to the emergency room, where eight adult corrections officers — sometimes

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MACDONALD

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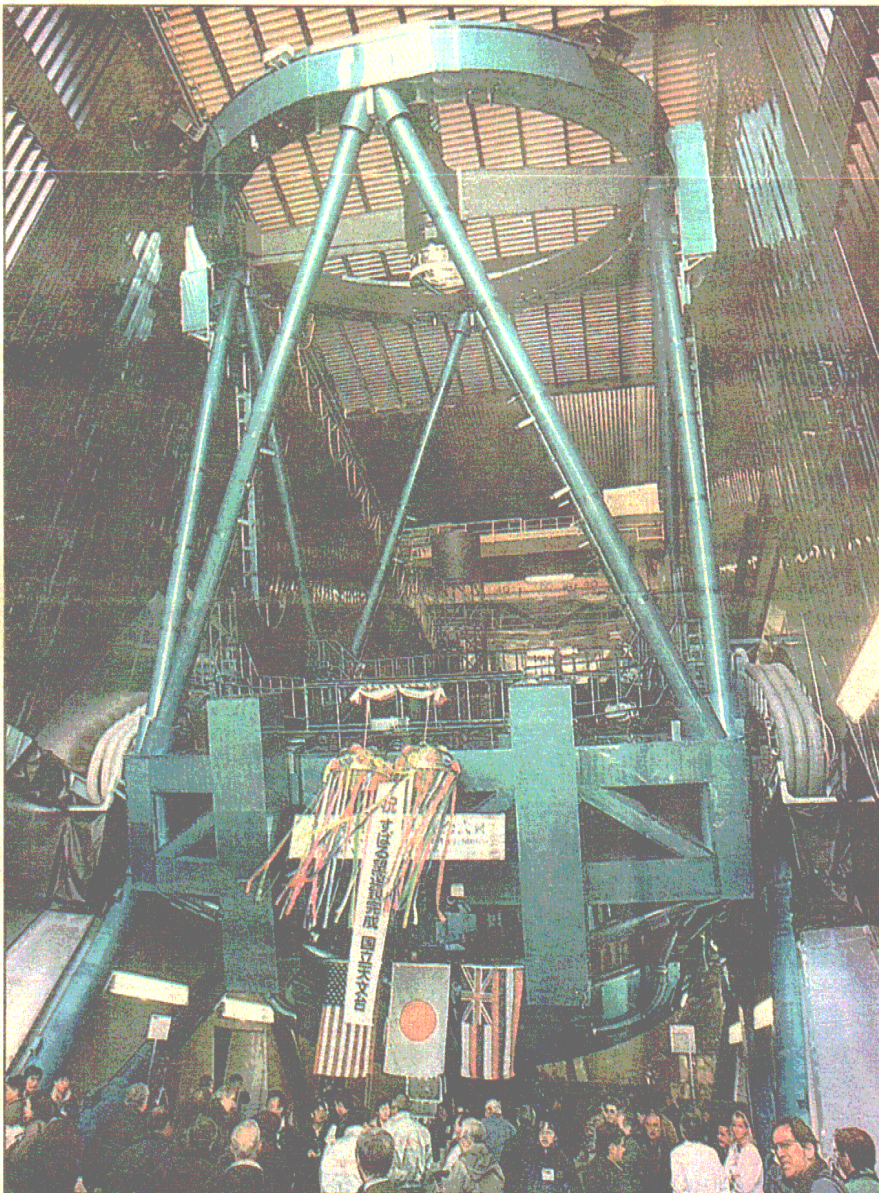
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## 'Reaching for the stars'



The massive Subaru Telescope is seen following dedication ceremonies atop Mauna Kea Friday. At right, University of Hawaii Chancellor Kenneth Mortimer, center, exchanges pleasantries with Dominic Vea, Jonah Yardley and Toni Auld Yardley, Native Hawaiians who were waiting outside the Subaru observatory to greet Princess Sayako after the ceremonies. Looking on at right is UHH Chancellor Rose Tseng.

T-H photos by William Ing



International dignitaries including Japan's Princess Sayako flock to summit of Mauna Kea to dedicate the \$300 million Subaru Telescope

By Jason Armstrong  
Tribune-Herald

MAUNA KEA SUMMIT — The Subaru Telescope offers world-class views of space, but the attraction Friday was a glimpse at — rather than through — the \$300 million telescope and the Japanese princess who dedicated it.

Named after the Japanese word for the young celestial group comprising Pleiades, the project marks the first time Japan has built a major scientific instrument on foreign soil.

The occasion provided the nearly 200 dignitaries, scientists and news media who journeyed to this barren site an opportunity to honor the technological achievement and the sacrifices made to complete it.

"By cooperating on this telescope project, Japan and the United States are literally reaching for the stars," said Thomas Foley, the U.S. ambassador to Japan.

Almost upstaging the dedication of a telescope boasting the world's largest single-piece glass lens was the petite Princess Sayako of Japan, who addressed the crowd while bundled in a white parka.

"Built at a spot 4,200 meters (13,796 feet) above sea level where construction must have been very difficult, I can imagine how hard it was for those involved and their families during its creation," the princess said in a brief speech translated through electronic earpieces worn by the attendees.

"I have a great deal of respect for the efforts of all the participants who took part in the construction of the Subaru Telescope, and I fervently pray for the souls of those who lost their lives during its construction," she said.

The deaths of three construction workers killed in a fire inside the dome and another who perished in a forklift accident drew a moment of silence at the beginning of the ceremonies. The tragedies were not forgotten by other members of an ancient culture known for its offerings of respect.

"It was built at the sacrifice of many workers here in Hawaii. We will never forget that," said former Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Kaifu, in comments that another speaker noted as unusually frank, said space-related projects generate little sup-



T-H photo by William Ing

Princess Sayako reads a prepared speech Friday in Japanese at the Subaru Telescope dedication ceremonies atop Mauna Kea.

port among the Japanese Parliament, which, he added, now would likely be unwilling to fund construction of a costly telescope.

"I'm not too sure we would have gone through with the project if the Japanese economy was as bad as it is today," Kaifu said.

The day's festivities began with a formal ceremony at the 9,000-foot-level Onizuka Visitors Center, which featured Princess Sayako being honored by the Royal Honor of Kamehameha I as a returning descendent of one of its members.

The princess' great-great grandfather, the Emperor Meiji, was inducted into the Royal Order by Hawaii's last King, Kalakaua, who made the offer during his 1881 visit to Tokyo.

Dressed in ceremonial clothing, 20 Hawaiian men and seven Hawaiian women chanted and presented an offering to the princess, who was flanked by an interpreter who translated the English portion of the 15-minute ceremony.

"It's a special occasion," said Paul Neves, Royal Order chief of the four traditional East Hawaii districts:

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