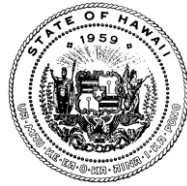


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII  
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH  
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:  
**215245 JO**

March 6, 2025

Greggory Chun  
Center for Mauna Kea Stewardship  
University of Hawaii  
640 N. Aohoku Place  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720  
*Transmitted via e-mail to: gchun711@hawaii.edu*

**Facility/Site:** Caltech Submillimeter Observatory Release

**Subject:** No Further Action for Caltech Submillimeter Observatory Hydraulic Fluid Release, Mauna Kea, Island of Hawaii

Dear Mr. Chun:

The Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response (HEER) Office has reviewed the July 2024 Removal Action Report for a *Release During the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory Demolition* and the January 2025 *Removal Action Report for a Release During the Caltech Submillimeter Observatory Demolition*.

Based on the reports, on 30 April 2024, 10 to 15 gallons of hydraulic fluid were spilled to the asphalt from an excavator during decommissioning of the observatory. Although the release was immediately contained using absorbent socks around the perimeter of the spill with mats and granular material used to absorb the spill, some hydraulic fluid escaped through cracks in the asphalt. Due to the release to soil, the asphalt was removed and visibly contaminated soil was excavated, stockpiled, sampled, and disposed of at the landfill. Following excavation of contaminated soils, confirmation multi-incremental soil samples were collected at the extent of excavation. No chemicals of potential concern (COPCs) were measured exceeded the Tier 1 Environmental Action Levels. Based on these findings, there are no indications of concentrations of COPCs exceeding the screening levels and therefore No Further Action (NFA) is necessary. However, should new information regarding onsite contamination become available, this NFA may be rescinded and additional response action may be required.

Please contact me at 808-586-4249 or via e-mail at [jennah.oshiro@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:jennah.oshiro@doh.hawaii.gov) if you have any questions.

Mr. Gregory Chun

March 6, 2025

Page 2 of 2

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jennah Oshiro".

Jennah Oshiro

Remediation Project Manager

Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office

Hawaii Department of Health

Cc: David Tirrell (via email: [provostoffice@caltech.edu](mailto:provostoffice@caltech.edu))  
Sunil Golwala (via email: [golwala@caltech.edu](mailto:golwala@caltech.edu))