Aloha Board of Regents,

Mahalo for taking the time to review my testimony.  I grew up in Hilo, I graduated from Hilo High School in 1995.  I feel a sense of deja vu with the controversy of the building of this telescope.  I distinctly remember promises being made that the last couple telescopes would be the last being built on Mauna a Wakea and yet here we are again.  I am not opposed to astronomy or even the building of a thirty meter telescope but it seems obvious that this is neither the time nor the place for this telescope to be built we can not trust what the State or the University says at this point based on the broken promises of the past.  A thirty meter telescope will obviously have negative impacts to the environment and the natural beauty of the mountain.  These are ceded lands and this is such a big issue we should work on resolving the issues that have been around for over 100 years before moving forward and pushing this down the throat of native people.  Since the original lease to the mountain top was granted in 1968, thirteen telescopes have already been built over the course of 47 years.  Please take some time to consider the implications of those statistics.  In under fifty years thirteen telescopes were built on this sacred place and it has never been enough and not one telescope has ever been taken down.  Each new telescope desecrates more of a sacred place and now a huge, massive, monstrous telescope is being proposed - if each new telescope is as important as they say why does it never end?  They are building a 39 meter telescope in Chile, they have the Hubble telescope orbiting in outer space - I don’t think they should stop building telescopes, but they should stop building telescopes where they are not wanted. Hawaii does not have an obligation to the world to pimp out our most sacred places, we have already contributed to the world’s knowledge 13 times there comes a point when enough is enough.  We have a hard enough time right now taking care of the balance of our ecosystems without doing more damage.  13 + 1 does not equal zero.

I’d like to close by quoting one of the interveners Kealoha Pisciotta:

In the end, the core issue is about the many Hawaiians whose practices will be negatively impacted. It’s about the ‘aina that will be negatively impacted. Even the university’s environmental impact statements (EIS) admits this fact: “From a cumulative perspective, the impact of past and present actions on cultural, archaeological and historic resources is substantial, significant and adverse: These impacts would continue to be substantial, significant and adverse with the consideration of the [TMT] project and other reasonably foreseeable future actions.”

This means development is not good for either Mauna Kea or the people of Hawaii.

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