Aloha,

Disrespect to Hawaiians must end. Mauna Kea belongs to them, not UH, not the state.

I and many others have testified repeatedly over the years, I hope you will start listening.

"Though the very things that people say they love most about Hawai‘i are actually what Hawaiians and their allies have been trying to protect for decades, we are still considered nothing more than speedbumps slowing everyone down on the road to progress."

Link: https://hehiale.wordpress.com/2015/04/03/we-live-in-the-future-come-join-us/

"Sacred places are an integral part of the human condition and experience. The phenomenon of sacred places is an ancient cross-cultural universal. They merit special respect on their own merits as well as out of due respect for the people and their culture who consider them sacred.

As such, desecration of a sacred place is dehumanizing for those who believe it to be sacred, and also for those who desecrate it."

~ Leslie Sponsel, professor emeritus at the Department of Anthropology

Link: http://www.staradvertiser.com/.../20150409_Sacred_places_are_...
Astronomers Clash Over A Giant Telescope On A Sacred Hawaiian Mountain

"The TMT “is predicated on this idea that we have some permission to take over these spaces and use them for scientific research,” Adam Burgasser, an associate professor of astrophysics at the University of California, San Diego, told BuzzFeed News.

“Even though I benefit greatly from that professionally, I don’t think we can make that assumption that we have rights to this mountain,” he added. “It’s a very, very complex issue, but it involves a lot of assumptions that a lot of people are uncomfortable facing.”

via Ashley Kibz Quibol

Last night I got to thinking and what if a telescopes were built here at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem. Where they believe Jesus Christ was buried.

-The mystic ‘Spotted Lake’: A sacred site producing therapeutic waters near Osoyoos BC Canada

-The sacred landscape of Callanish – ‘Scotland’s Stonehenge’ many astronomical alignments of this site scotland

-The Vatican City, one of the most sacred places in Christendom, where attests to a great history and a formidable spiritual venture.

-Or Mecca declared as the holiest site in Islam ordaining it as the center of Muslim pilgrimage, one of the faith’s Five Pillars

Lastly Japan Mount Fuji is a volcano, which geologists estimate was created 600,000 years ago during the Pleistocene era. It last erupted in 1707 and is now dormant. According to Buddhist tradition, Fuji rose from the earth in 286 BC after an earthquake that also created Lake Biwa (the largest lake in Japan).

Fuji-san has been regarded as sacred mountain for virtually as long as humans have lived nearby. It was originally a sacred mountain of the Ainu, the aboriginal inhabitants of Japan.

For Shintoists (modern followers of the native religion), Mt. Fuji is sacred to the goddess Sengen-Sama and an embodiment of the very spirit of nature. The Fujiko sect goes even father, believing the mountain itself is a sacred being with a a soul. Fuji is also sacred to Japanese Buddhists, who revere the mountain is a gateway to another world.

via Kawika Cruz

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Thirty Meter Telescope was published in 2009 for public viewing and was followed by a six month commentary period to allow public feedback, both written and in-person testimonies, based on the research conducted within the DEIS.
The Draft Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) is included in the 2009 DEIS. That Draft CIA included ten recommendations based on the research conducted for the TMT and the most important recommendation was a "Do not build" clause based on the sacredness of the summit and community opposition. Parsons Brinkerhoff, the planning company producing the EIS, along with UH, removed those ten recommendations from the Draft CIA so the public never got to see what the research showed and recommended in the CIA. After the public commentary window closed, the Final EIS was released in 2010, and in it mentions that the CIA had a clause of "Do not build" after the fact that no one saw the original ten recommendations. So no one, both the public and legislators, knew that the original CIA concluded that the summit of Mauna Kea was too sacred to build.

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The TMT case is still in court, all work should be stopped until the court case is over. The state & UH are breaking 8 conservation rules, rules that many fought for, for decades. The lease from the state to UH is a dollar a year, the leases to the telescope companies are a dollar a year. The companies charge a ton of money for viewing time but little filters back to Hawaiians and other Hawai`i residents while their services are constantly cut.

The UH lease to the (TMT) telescope is longer than the lease it holds. I have heard 6 to 9 of the 13 telescopes are 'empty' and not in use.

On the TMT, 120-140 jobs are promised after construction but a worker says present telescopes are manned by one person.

The issue of the title to the land is in question. Hawai`i was never properly annexed by the US.

There are many plant species found nowhere else at the location and have barely been studied. A full inventory needed.

The religious aspect is very real to many and should not be overlooked. Akin to bulldozing the Vatican to many.

I'm sure there are many more problems that I am not aware of, but bottom line, Hawaiians are getting hosed, as usual... Have some respect, don't be a part of it.

Mahalo,
Shannon Rudolph - Kona
32 year Hawai`i resident - I am Mauna Kea

Sunday 4/12 Mauna Kea