To the University Board of Regents,

Aloha. My name is Veronica Anduha and I am an alumni of the University of Hawai‘i. Although I support science and technology I do not support the TMT’s current location. I believe that it is in the best interest of all parties that a new location is created with the support of the public and Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Here’s why:

1. As details have become much more widespread and publicized, more people have been made aware of the TMT project. With that awareness has come a public and Native Hawaiian concern that as to it’s placement not just it’s construction and maintenance. This is commonly known as a place for Native Hawaiians to place their 'iwi and piko. As modern times have come, this has also included ashes. So not only are there tangible remains but those within the earth itself. It is a practice still maintained today.

#2. There has only been vague mention as to the lack of ownership towards previous observatories built regarding responsibility. The University cannot keep allowing observatories to be built. Take the others down first and recycle keeping jobs local.

#3. This is an amazing opportunity for the University of Hawai‘i and everyone involved to lead the world by setting new standards of respect for Native Peoples. Irregardless of the previous mistakes of the TMT consulted cultural experts, we can see today there was a flaw in your size of your panel of practitioners. You should have also sought out individuals with genealogical ties and kuleana to the mauna. Many historians can tell you that the perspective of history, language, and culture varies slightly and sometimes greatly between districts and islands. Here is the chance to go back and give Hawai‘i island public and all Native Hawaiians the opportunity to vote upon things that affect Hawai‘i and all of its natural resources that lie within your stewardship now and in the future. Personally I knew there were problems of efficacy when I saw only one Native Hawaiian vote on the board, belonging to Nainoa Thompson.

#4. What plans has the TMT partners made in lieu of the current political issues in Hawai‘i? Although I recognize that others will have more say in this matter, it seems that legally, they should be contracting with the Kingdom of Hawai‘i. Thus, seeing that what appears to be a majority of those who would have retained Hawaiian Nationality until today are against the project’s continuation, until further evaluation, it should not continue.

All in all, science should not come at the detriment to one of Hawai‘i’s greatest resources, Mauna Kea, Waiau, na 'iwi, etc... As a university, respect your students, alumni, faculty, and staff that oppose this project. Talk to them. Listen to what they have to say. They should be your first resource among many! Listen to what the public is trying to explain about their appreciation for Mauna a Wakea regardless of religion, ethnicity, or nationality because Mauna a Wakea will not get a second chance. Once this happens, parts of this mountain will be gone forever.

Sincerely 'o au wale maila me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Veronica Anduha