Aloha,

My name is Leilani Camargo-Naone and I reside on the west of 'Oahu. I recently went up to Mauna a Wakea to be able to feel the mana of the aloha 'aina warriors but all I felt was the mana of the mountain. This is my testimony opposing the building of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna a Wakea.

I am completely against the building of this TMT because you are disrupting the connection of our creators, Honuamea and Wakea. This is the closest that they are able to be to each other. This is also the closest we, as Hawaiians, can get to our creators. These lands were supposed to be held in trust for the Hawaiian people at the time of the overthrow, so why is that being put aside now? Americans, na Haole, have no culture. Their culture is that they own land and that without them the land can't thrive but you have to understand that, we Hawaiians, believe the complete opposite. The land takes care of us, Mauna a Wakea takes care of us and she is our piko, the start of every Hawaiian. You may not understand this concept but I ask you try. We have a beautiful culture here in Hawaii and our land is that basis of it all. Our ancestors and grandparents have been stripped continuously of the things they identified themselves with; our language, our land, our beliefs, our rights, our kingdom, our aloha. This generation, my generation have very little left of our culture. We're definitely going to fight for whatever we have left to keep our culture alive.

I am not saying that every Hawaiian is against the great findings of this telescope. I think it is amazing that it will be able to see a billion light-years, or however far, away. We are against the placing and the illegal starting of building. The legal building height on island of Hawaii is how tall? 3 stories and this building will be six times that height. Also, this telescope is supposed to meet 8 criteria in order to be built, think back if it really did. The TMT manager said that they made sure that there are no archeological sites in the area of where the telescope will be built, THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN IS OUR "ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE," again, no culture.

I may not be as educated as I should be to argue on any side of this issue but I just want ot make my voice heard and get you thinking. Think of your special place, where you can relax, and be one with yourself, now imagine someone destroying your utopia and never allowing it to be the same ot you and belittling your love for that place.

Mahalo,

Leilani Camargo-Naone