Aloha Board of Regents,

My name is Ululani Poepoe and I’m here representing my ohana. I implore you to terminate the contract with TMT. To move forward with the TMT on Mauna Kea would cause further oppression of my people. The definition of “oppressed” is the prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or control. We are oppressed with the subordination of the Native Hawaiians by unjust use of force and authority to achieve indoctrination and pillaging of our lands.

Unjust use of force and authority you ask. Yes, as witnessed in the previous TMT court cases by the manipulation of the building codes and regulations to fit the mighty TMT’s needs over the religious needs of the Kanaka Maoli. As witnessed by the arrest of 31 people on April 2nd although the University of Hawaii was fully aware that the Hawaiian Kingdom is illegally occupied by the United States. Therefore, this makes the University, and you, a willing participant in the oppressive acts of the native Hawaiians and therefore subject to investigation of war crimes. The 1907 Hague Convention, IV, Article 56 specifically protects illegally occupied people and their institutions dedicated to religion, and all seizure of, destruction or willful damage done is forbidden.

My great-grandfather Henry Poepoe was Reverend at Kaumakapili Church for 50 years. His son, my grandfather Abraham Poepoe, was Reverend at Kamuela’s Imiola Church and various churches on Oahu. But before he died he asked me to not forget. Not forget about our Hawaiian gods. Don’t turn your back on them, he said. They’re our gods. They’re good gods. Christ isn’t more important than they are. They’re ALL important gods.

So I continue to fulfill my grandpa’s wish and I pray to my Hawaiian gods and exercise my rights as a Hawaiian. And I teach my mo’opuna this too. Mauna Kea is our Garden of Eden. It’s where we began. To further desecrate it is the continued oppression of us. Make no mistake, if UH doesn’t stop TMT and the construction, we will continue to aloha you, but we will also take matters to its proper jurisdiction, a higher international court.

Mahalo for opening your hearts to hear our concerns, to feel our love we have for our Mauna, and to understand that the crown lands are our lands and we wish them to remain intact for our keiki to worship our gods... in our way.

Aloha,

‘o wau no me ka ha’aha’a,
I am, humbly yours,

Ululani Poepoe
April 14, 2015

University of Hawaii at Hilo
Board of Regents
UCB 127, Ho’olulu Terrace
200 West Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawaii  96720

Testimony in Opposition to TMT

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Ululani Poepoe