Respectfully Elders - Ladies and Gentlemen entrusted with the keeping of our sacred history, the land: past, present, and future. You who are supposed to know and understand better than most what 'WE ARE MAUNA KEA' means. I am so confused.

I am confused how you could originally vote against your people, your history and your land - voting for that hideous eye-sore and blight on our Mother Earth. The Thirty meter telescope on Mauna Kea is illegal. You know that and yet you pushed forward. Living in the States for so many years I have watched with increasing horror as our politicians ravage the land, scar the earth, bring blight to the land. Damage the Mother to no return, yet there was hope and beauty with my o'hana in Kauai who honored the creation, fighting the crime and sickness of GMO, watching a police office who instead of arresting a woman forced to steal milk for her baby buy that woman a month's worth of groceries instead of fining and incarcerating her.

It gave me faith as every time Obama opens his mouth to repeat the exact same words, but there has been no hope, no change. I clung to your honour and history. You beauty and your beliefs. You taking away unsustainable blights like the sugar cane, since it cost so much in oil to ship. You doing that relieved those who had worked in slavery and took the oil cost from the question.

Kauai had already made sacrifices for their telescope. One that cost crazy money, yet it is rarely staffed and wasted. Now you are moving on to Mauna Kea, illegalities and all. Why? I beg you why?

Support has poured in from ALL over the country, and not just the United States. Monks to movie stars to rock stars. Nobodies and even a few politicians who know you are wrong in your illegal actions. During these peaceful protects you have harmed citizens who have done nothing but interlock arms in peaceful protest. They have been arrested and held. Denied phone calls, medication. They have sprayed young and old alike with pepper spray. Again, respectfully, I wonder how any of you would hold up under such cruel enforcement of illegal laws? I am certain your retained lawyers would be woken, yelled at and you would taken cared of, bailed out and back in warm clothes in your expensive homes rather than back with the protesters, praying for strength, truth, the power of perseverance. Praying for you to keep the laws already in effect.

HAR 13-5-30
2: 'The existing physical and environmental aspects of the land, such as natural beauty and open space characteristics, will be preserved or improved upon, whichever is applicable.'

Blowing up mountain ranges and placing ugly, un-needed telescopes DO NOT QUALIFY.

HAR 13-5-30
Hawaii Law outlines clear criteria that must be met before construction can be allowed on conserved land in Hawaii:
1: The development may not 'cause substantial adverse impact to existing natural recourses within the surrounding area, community, or region.'
HAR13-5-30  
-TMT Permit Application  
'From a cumulative perspective, the impact on cultural resources has been and would continue to be substantial, adverse and significant.'

Despite these things the OHA has yet to explain why it is wise a healthy to lease the mountain for a dollar a year? A DOLLAR? A YEAR? Or how about tell we the people why another telescope is needed or benefits UH, its astronomy programs and its students, and why we should expect more and larger projects on the mountains? Simple questions asked before, yet never answered. Tell the state what happened to the 'antiquated' telescopes they made obsolete by each new project. And how about you tell the religious practitioners why the sacredness of Mauna Kea should be sacrificed for this?

Many facts and stats are at KAHEA.org but here are a few showing the importance of what you are destroying:

Construction footprint 8 acres of destroyed land (Average American football field is only 1.32 acres)  
The telescope itself is 34,000 square feet. Include the support and office buildings of 21,000 square feet. You are excavating 64,000 cubic yards of summit area and adding 3,400 feet of new road. In ALL THE WORLD on our small island, you plan the largest destruction, I'm sorry, development proposed in a summit region and second largest in the world.

The Impact is destruction beyond compare and repair when we are already I a time of losing glaciers, polar caps, historical markers, sacred lands, prayer places, sanctuaries, and individual homelands and cultures are being stolen away from the rightful owners. Not only are these things being taken, you will be adding 74 Db in noise pollution, up to 250 cubic feet of solid waste a week, use a 5,000 gallon tank of underground waste storage, including hazardous waste.

This MUST be stopped before it's too late.

You are wrong and you know you are wrong. You do not destroy your land, your people, the Holy.

Respectfully,

Kally Jo Surbeck

#TMT Shutdown, #ProtectMaunakea  RP:@hehiau_official