April 15, 2015

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF THE THIRTY METER TELESCOPE (TMT) AT MAUNA KEA

To the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai‘i:

I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) at Mānoa, and I respectfully urge you to immediately STOP ALL telescope construction activities at the Mauna Kea Conservation District. Please, fulfill your duty by considering how you are representing the students of the University of Hawai‘i and the state that I and many others come from, live in and raise our families in. A large majority of us do not want the TMT built on Mauna Kea. If construction proceeds, I will suffer an injury based on my strong religious and cultural relationship to this sacred site. Mauna Kea is sacred because it is connected to the creation of Native Hawaiians; the cultural significance of this site contains thousands of years of history that supports the well-being of Native Hawaiians and this state. With that said, I do not believe the TMT project is not in the best interest of the students of UH and that of Hawai‘i, which our university represents as a “Hawaiian Place of Learning.”

To date, over 43,000 people have signed a petition urging Governor Ige to stop the construction of TMT. The State arrested thirty-one individuals as well. More individuals have volunteered to be arrested to protect this sacred site. Thousands statewide, both Native Hawaiians and the general public, oppose the TMT by protesting in their own communities, i.e, about 5,000 in attendance at ‘Iolani Palace grounds on Sunday, April 12th, and State-wide walk-out of University of Hawaii students on Monday, April 15th. Many more have committed to begin protests should an adverse decision be made to continue construction. Therefore, this issue requires YOUR immediate and proper action.

You are the governing body that represents our voice. Please fulfill your public service duty TO STOP THE FURTHER desecration of Mauna Kea immediately: halt further progress of TMT construction and end the TMT project on Mauna Kea.

With sincere respect,

Errol E. Lee
MSW Candidate

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