Thirty Meter Telescope

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Aloha,

With great dismay we observe the support for sovereignty for the Hawaiian Nation lay claim to the land leased under legal agreements for the purpose of putting up the Thirty Meter Telescope. The position they are taking is that their representatives were bullied into the agreement, so it should be voided, because full disclosures and complete studies were not made.

What is at stake is a rare and significant multi national enterprise that stands to bring human interests together for the furtherance of knowledge and understanding of the world we live in.

Perhaps had the original agreements not been made, and this was not an extension of efforts that have expanded human understanding of the universe, we would all be looking at an incursion that violates sensibilities and rights. However, the violation is of sensibilities only. Those sensibilities are not taking into account the benefits to the people of this island and the world. In particular what is being ignored is the benefit to the sons and daughters of this island who because of this scientific endeavor will not be exiled into careers in the food and tourism industry should they choose to stay on island, but have a blossoming arena of scientific endeavor to explore and make into a life’s work. There are cultural avenues for this work should they so choose, supported by the community that brings us the exploration of the universe.

As much as we may feel an urgency to support the Hawaiian effort to govern their own land, to undo a project such as this does not further the spiritual growth of who we are as a whole. It is past time to identify ourselves in terms of race, and time to unify and reclaim what could be sacred to us all- the pursuit of that which will enrich all humanity.

Mahalo nui,

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