“Toitu he whenua, whatungarongaro he tangata.” –  
The land is permanent, man disappears.

As Māori of Aotearoa we have a deep connection to our land and to the natural world. To us, humans and the land are one - we live, learn and exist because of each other.
It is with much pain and distress that we watch our Hawaiian whanau fight to protect the spirit and wellbeing of Mauna Kea. This sacred mauna is more than a tourist attraction or playground for academics to study the stars. It is is the home of gods, the pito of a culture and the host for unique natural resources. It is a place to be treasured, cherished and protected. It is a place that our children’s, children’s children should experience.
Kia kaha nga tanagata o Hawaii - stand strong and protect your maunga.
Tena koutou katoa,
Miriame Barbarich - Wellington New Zealand