I am writing to urge you to halt any further development on the Hawaiian land known as the Mauna Kea Conservation District. Although I have always enjoyed space science, I oppose the construction of the proposed thirty-meter telescope on grounds related to justice, morality, rationality, legality, integrity, and sustainability, as explained below.

DEVELOPMENT ON MAUNA KEA IS NOT JUST: As a non-Hawaiian resident of Hawai‘i for nearly 40 years, I continue to be outraged because of the way the Hawaiian people have been mistreated for over a century. When I was interviewed by the *Maui News* on the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington, I was asked what I saw as the unfinished business of the civil rights movement. I responded: “One of the biggest civil rights issues continues to be the status of Native Hawaiians.” This is still true. There have been many injustices against Hawaiians in regard to the use of land, including those involving the Mauna Kea Conservation District.

DEVELOPMENT ON MAUNA KEA IS NOT MORAL: Development of this conservation district is part of the ongoing immoral colonization of the Native Hawaiian people (Kanaka Maoli). Many moral wrongs that have been and are being committed against the Hawaiian people. They are exploited economically and culturally. Their land has been seized illegally (not “ceded”), including this land, Mauna Kea.

Hawaiians are often treated in a patronizing manner. Some honor their rituals as long as they “stay in their place,” and that place is determined for them by people in positions of power. This racist attitude holds that they can do their chants and hula as long as they put up with inferior status, including loss of control of their lands. This is one reason for their movement of resistance to development on Mauna Kea.

LOGICAL FALLACIES BY SOME PROONENTS OF DEVELOPMENT ON MAUNA KEA and CORRESPONDING REALITY CHECKS

**FALLACY 1:** Those who oppose the thirty-meter telescope are “anti-science.”

**REALITY CHECK 1:** In fact, many of us see clearly the ethical issues, the injustices, and the environmental degradation involved in this issue without devaluing any type of knowledge. The APPLICATION of science, however, has always been a moral issue.
FALLACY 2: Hawaiians who oppose the thirty-meter telescope are ignorant, superstitious anti-science natives.
REALITY CHECK 2: That characterization is racist and false. There are legitimate human rights and sustainability issues involved regarding this telescope, and native wisdom is being disrespected. I have a deep admiration for the Hawaiian people who are rising up out of self-respect and love for the ‘āina. They have been robbed and cheated in many ways for many decades. They are refusing to put up with any more land grabs, profiteering at their expense, insults, injustice, abuse, or environmental degradation.

FALLACY 3: Space science is the only science that matters.
REALITY CHECK 3: Space science is not supreme. Other forms of science, including environmental science regarding sustainability and indigenous science and wisdom, are not subordinate to space science.

FALLACY 4: There is only one way to explore space, and that is to build this telescope on this mountain.
REALITY CHECK 4: There are many ways to explore space without perpetrating injustice and environmental degradation.

DEVELOPMENT ON MAUNA KEA IS NOT LEGAL:
As we all know, the required eight criteria for development in this conservation district have not been met, and the permitting process was flawed.

Eight Criteria

(c) In evaluating the merits of a proposed land use, the department or board shall apply the following criteria:

1. The proposed land use is consistent with the purpose of the conservation district;
2. The proposed land use is consistent with the objectives of the subzone of the land on which the use will occur;
3. The proposed land use complies with provisions and guidelines contained in chapter 20SA, HRS, entitled “Coastal Zone Management;” where applicable;
4. The proposed land use will not cause substantial adverse impact to existing natural resources within the surrounding area, community or region;
5. The proposed land use, including buildings, structures and facilities, shall be compatible with the locality and surrounding areas, appropriate to the physical conditions and capabilities of the specific parcel or parcels;
6. 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;
7. Subdivision of land will not be utilized to increase the intensity of land uses in the conservation district; and
8. The proposed land use will not be materially detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare.
For this reason, the matter is still a subject of litigation.

**THE INTEGRITY OF THE PROCESS IS IN QUESTION; THE PERMITS ARE MEANINGLESS:** The completeness of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is in question, and the truth about this matter needs to be discussed openly. Were there, as some claim, recommendations about this conservation district that were not revealed to the public at the time testimony was given? Was there not a recommendation in the original document that the TMT not be built? These questions need to be answered by making all versions of the EIS available to the public.

**DEVELOPMENT ON MAUNA KEA IS NOT SUSTAINABLE:**

Many members of the University community collaborated to create the Board of Regents’ Policy on Sustainability. Executive Policy, EP 4.202 System Sustainability, contains the following: **III Section E Cultural Connections:** “Embrace the culture, wisdom and fundamental values of the indigenous people of Hawai‘i to advance sustainability.” Forcing them to give up land for development that endangers the main aquifer on the island and violates their “culture, wisdom and fundamental values” is anti-sustainability. That is not what the University of Hawai‘i should be practicing.

Because of the many human justice, legal, moral and environmental issues involved, development in the Mauna Kea Conservation District must be halted.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen Cain
Honolulu