April 15, 2015

University of Hawai`i—Board of Regents
Bachman 209—2444 Dole Street
Honolulu, HI 96822

Dear Regents:

Mahalo for allowing me to send testimony to you concerning the management of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve.

It is my understanding that in 1968 the Board of Land and Natural Resources approved a 65 year lease to the University of Hawai`i for a 13,321-acre area on the Mauna Kea summit. The wording in the lease included: “The land hereby leased shall be used by the Lessee as a scientific complex, including without limitation thereof an observatory, and as a scientific reserve being more specifically a buffer zone to prevent the intrusion of activities inimical to said scientific complex.”

The words, “an observatory” clearly means to me either a singular observatory or a single observation point from which scientific research is conducted.

The present plan to build the so-called TMT observatory complex within the area on the Mauna Kea summit is way beyond the understanding of the original lease.

The University of Hawai`i is an institution of learning. Learning is not confined to science but to all of the disciplines, including philosophy and religion including the study of spirituality.

Mauna Kea is considered “sacred” by a large number of people, not only of native Hawaiian ancestry but people of other indigenous ancestries and others who do not claim native Hawaiian or indigenous ancestries. I am among those who believe Mauna Kea is sacred.

I believe that the sacredness of Mauna Kea should be respected. The plan to build the TMT observatory is an affront to the sacredness of Mauna Kea.

To attempt to go forward with the building of the TMT observatory will result in mounting arrests and a buildup of righteous anger that will direct itself against you members of the Board of Regents so that the function of a university will be impacted in a negative way.

I strongly urge you to find a way to stop the building of the TMT observatory.
Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share my manao with you.

Sincerely,
Ronald S. Fujiyoshi
1196 W. Kawaihau St.
Hilo, HI 96720

Cc: Mr. Palikapu Dedman, President, Ohana Ho`opakele, Mr. James Albertini, Secretary, Ohana Ho`opakele, Mr. Dante Carpenter, Advisor, Ohana Ho`opakele, Mr. Renwick Tassill, Advisor, Ohana Ho`opakele