April 15, 2015

Board of Regents’
University of Hawai’i at Hilo
UCB 127, Ho’oloulou Terrace
200 West Kawili Street
Hilo, Hawai’i 96720

COMMENTS REGARDING MANAGEMENT AND CARE OF MAUNA KEA AND THE MAUNA KEA SCIENCE RESERVE

Aloha kakou Board of Regents’:

Mahalo for opening the discussion and receiving comments for the care of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve. Change in any form is always a challenge for all of us.

My concerns are as follows:

In 2033, All Telescope Leases expire and have to be removed and the aina returned free from debris, nails, building scrap etc. Why is it necessary to have another telescope at this time when it may take 10 years to complete and they would have maybe 5-7 years of viewing? Why do we need another telescope when the other 13 are fully operational, in use and pointing at different projects? I understand this would point to yet a different part of space. It’s like construction for reducing traffic; it’s already outdated by the time it’s completed.

I would like to see more accountability, transparency and better management practices for the Mauna. Although you do have a “Management Plan” it is lacking in many areas and I believe the issues in the court of public opinion would be minimized if you followed the plan now instead of waiting to implement things in 2017 or later.

Rules and guidelines as well as enforcement have always been an issue with the Department of Land and Natural Resources in Hawai’i; however, as the “Lessee’s” it is your responsibility to be pro-active to be the best land stewards. You must create a positive environment for everyone involved; your sub-lessee; your employees; your contractors; the inhabitants of the Mauna; the people of Hawai’i island; and of course the Kanaka Ma’oli.

This current situation with TMT has brought many people for and against the project. This project has not been clear and/or transparent in following the rules, guidelines and laws that are in place. If you expect public support you have to follow the letter of the law, not pick and choose which ones to follow.

Sincerely,

Crystal Kia-Paul