My name is Lisa Walker, born and raised in Hilo, Hawai‘i, graduate of UC, Santa Barbara, currently Director of Marketing in Santa Barbara, CA. 

Below is my testimony in regards to the TMT/Mauna Kea issue: 
This is not a black and white issue. Few issues ever are. So why not let the melting pot of colors that are the people of Hawai‘i and of this world, be a representation that there is a way to colorfully, creatively, and intelligently come to a resolution? One in which we advance scientifically, but do so without desecrating a mountain that is also neither black or white, neither just a sacred place or just a prime location for a telescope. Mauna a Wakea is also so much more. It is a mountain that is home to a unique ecosystem; it is a mountain that is still a dormant volcano; a mountain that is the piko of a place that housed some of the world's very first astronomers; a mountain whose billion dollar profits can and should benefit its Hawai‘i’s native people; a mountain whose lawful place is in the hands of Hawaiians. 

There is not a black and white solution, because this is not a black and white issue. So until there is a resolution that appeases first the people of Hawai‘i who live daily in the shadow of this magnificent mauna, as they have for centuries, I implore you all to be the creative and intelligent scientists, educators, politicians, lawyers, and evolved humans that you are, and find a better way before an irreversible decision is made. 

Humbly in support of the Hawaiian people, 
Lisa K. Walker