April 15, 2015

University of Hawaii Board of Regents

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Rachel Hualani Loo and as a Kanaka ʻŌiwi, a mother, and a graduate of the University of Hawaii at Hilo and University of Hawaii at Mānoa, I strongly oppose the continued construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) and the further desecration of Mauna Kea. The University of Hawaii cannot be a place of learning while continuing the desecration of our sacred places and it is our duty to hold the Board accountable for these actions. Mauna Kea is sacred because it is connected to the creation of Native Hawaiians. It is the meeting place of Papa and Wākea, who are the parents of the entire human race and the birthplace of humanity, where heaven and earth meet. The cultural significance of this site contains thousands of years of history that support the well-being of Native Hawaiians and this state.

To date, over 43,000 people have signed a petition urging Governor Ige to stop the construction of TMT. The State has arrested thirty-one individuals. More individuals have volunteered to be arrested to protect this sacred site. Thousands across the world, both Native Hawaiians and the general public, oppose the TMT by protesting in their own communities. Many more have committed to begin protests should an adverse decisions be made to continue construction. This is only the beginning of our collective action.

This issue requires immediate action. I respectfully ask you to stop the further desecration of Mauna Kea immediately.

Naʻu nō me ka haʻahaʻa,

Rachel Hualani Loo