Aloha mai,

I am writing to submit testimony for your special meeting regarding the Management of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve.

I was one of the 31 arrested on April 2, and I strongly oppose the building of the Thirty Meter Telescope on the Northern Plateau of Mauna a Wakea. I have submitted testimony in the past as well. All land is sacred, and the summit of the Mauna is one of the most sacred, permanently and irreparably desecrating by allowing TMT will be detrimental to our aina, our people, and our water source. As Hawaiians, we have suffered limitless institutional racism, nearly loosing our language, severe population decline, loss of land and access to cultural sites, banning of religious practices, and the list goes one. Please do not allow this type of perpetuation of racism to continue by allowing the building of a building the size of 5 football fields at the highest summit and most sacred place, a wao akua. As manager of that place it is your kuleana to protect it, and work in the best interest of many, not in the interest of a few or in the name of science. TMT can be built in other places or with technology today can be erected in some other way, but not on top of our piko, and not in a place that will then have serious effects on our aquifer and water source which will then effect EVERYTHING downslope, including the ocean and marine life. Please do what is right for the majority, and please return the lease to Hawaiians to manage those lands such as Hawaiian Homes Associations, or another organization which will look to protect and preserve, not to exploit in the name of science.

ʻO au me ka haʻahaʻa,
Erin O'Donnell
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