Aloha e University of Hawai‘i and Board Of Regents,

I, Kamali‘i McShane Padilla, am in opposition of further desecration of the ‘āina (land) and construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on Mauna A Wākea because of the interference with natural resources. By allowing the TMT Project to continue the endangerment of the native bugs and plants, the amount of pollution that the telescopes causes, and further desecration of our sacred mauna (mountain) will be destroyed.

First of all, the on going problem with Mauna Kea is the construction of roads, parking lots, facilities, and the telescopes that are affecting the natural resources and native habitat. The endangered Wekiu bug and other Mauna Kea native species can be crushed by foot or by vehicles. The summit and upper slopes where the Wekiu bug and native species live, once pristine, now bear the scars of illegal, off-road, grading of puʻu (mound), and recreational vehicle use. The wekiu is a candidate for listing with critical habitat designation under the Endangered Species Act.
Secondly, collective waste water, chemicals, and any debris coming from construction is a threat to the summits ecosystem and aquifer. On tmt.org it states "TMT is designed to be a zero waste discharge facility with all waste securely transported off the summit. " According to my recent findings there have already been 7 mercury spills. “These are not things to be taken lightly, even the workers themselves are exposed to serious toxic chemicals that cause mad hatters diseases that attack your nervous system,” stated Mary Milhamo, an environmental activist.

Lastly, placing another telescope that is 30 meters wide, 18 storys high, and 2 storys below is a desecration of our sacred mauna. Mauna A Wākea is the tallest mountain in world below sea level which allows people of Hawaiʻi to make the connection to our beliefs. Placing the telescope on the mauna disconnects from our piko (center), kupuna (elder), and akua (god).

Mahalo for your consideration. Again, I oppose the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope.

Sincerely,
Kamaliʻi McShane Padilla
Haumāna (student)
Kapu Aloha, Aloha ‘Āina.