On July 7th, 1898, Congress passed a joint resolution of annexation which was signed by President McKinley and passed into U.S. Law. But beyond the borders of the U.S., a congressional joint resolution cannot have any force or effect--a treaty is needed for that which the U.S. still, until today, does not possess. Under International Law, the Hawaiian Kingdom still exists, therefore, TIO (TMT International Observatory LLC) does not hold a valid lease to build their telescope on Mauna Kea. So while it is heartless to desecrate a mountain so valuable to Hawaiʻi and its people, it is also illegal for TIO to build this telescope and in doing so, they would be committing war crimes.

I want my future children to experience and learn from Mauna Kea and for her to continue to exist in all of her natural beauty. I urge you to permanently stop construction and further desecration to our mountain.

-Prescott Aoloa Patao, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii