Personal Testimony on behalf of myself, Leea Alicia Keiki Ānuenue Purcell
Re: University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. The Management of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve

Welina mai,
‘O au ‘o Leea Alicia Keiki Ānuenue Purcell a no Hilo mai au a ma laila i kanu ‘ia nā ‘iwi kūpuna and I oppose to the Thirty Meter Telescope that is to be constructed on top of our sacred Mauna a Wākea and oppose to the continued desecration of our ‘āina.

For any Hawaiian, whether by blood or spirit, that does not feel sentiment towards this issue; I encourage you to be in the now. Hawaiians continuously being arrested in efforts of protecting our culture and ‘āina was not an identity we chose for ourselves.

Mai poina, let us not forget,

From birth, as Hawaiians we are intrinsically connected with the ‘āina and are genetically in tune with nature. These sacred places are living and breathing entities to our culture and become places where you can still feel Hawaiian, where you don’t feel marginalized as a Hawaiian, where you can still feel sovereign. You need to feel sovereign in order to move forward with a vision. We do what we need to do to feel native on native ‘āina in efforts to identify our role as a kānaka within a changing society. Do not continue to take that away from us.

Aloha ‘āina,
Keiki Ānuenue Purcell