Aloha mai kakou,
I am Hulali Trask- a daughter, a sister, a cousin, a niece, and an aunty. But before all of that, I am a Kanaka Maoli and a Native person of this land. I am writing to you, the Board of Regents, to urge the halt of all construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on my sacred Mauna Kea.

As a Native Hawaiian, I was taught the importance of our land, our resources, our culture and our ‘ohana from a young age. I was taught that Wakea and Papahanaumoku, our sky father and earth mother, birthed our islands. Of that came Mauna A Wakea (Mauna Kea), which literally translates to mountain of Wakea. As our Kumulipo (Hawaiian creation story) says, we are descendants of this Mauna. This entire Mauna is sacred to our culture, with the top being the paramount, also where you (UH Hilo) have managed to already place 13 giant telescopes. Can you see why this Mauna is not just “another mountain”?

As an educational institute, who teaches the value of Hawaiian culture, I expect a lot more of you (UH). How can you go against your teachings? How can you put greed, desecration, disrespect and money before your own people? I have spent hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars throughout my 4 years attending UH Hilo, and I am ashamed that my money, our tax dollars and the tuition of your thousands of students is laying down the foundation for your illegal and unjust actions. There is no replacing the damage you have already caused to Mauna Kea, and the potential damage that the TMT will cause will be irreplaceable. It is important that we take care of what natural resources we have left. How blessed are we to live in an area that can sustain our people by itself. Mankind has a bad habit of taking, taking, taking. There’s only so much we can take before there isn’t anything left. Then what do we do? Where do we turn? How will we survive? How many times will you say no more telescopes? How many more times do the native people have to witness you (UH) along with BLNR not provide these sacred areas with the proper care they deserve.

With all that said, I am not against science, or the enhancement of technologies. I am however against the cultural insensitivity and irresponsible development that the TMT will do. The cries of not only our people but the thousands of people around the world have been witnessed. We have taken a stand. If that alone is not enough for you (UH) to consider to revoke this TMT, then you obviously have other motives on your mind.

Ku Kia’i Mauna.  Eo Hawai’i Pae’aina.

Sincerely,
Hulali K. Trask
POBOX 4822
Hilo, Hi 96720