Aloha Kakou. My name is Kanoelulueianuhea Case. I am a Kanakamaoli of Hawai’i Nei and student of UHH. I was born and raised on the Big Island specifically in Waimea. I am here today on behalf of my ohana who stand with me especially my two keiki to share my position regarding the TMT that has been scheduled to be built on Mauna A Wakea on our sacred mountain known throughout the World. I oppose the decision of the TMT being built on our mountain that was made on behalf of the BOR, UH system, the BLNR, as well as all international parties involved in this construction including Canada, Japan, India, China etc. I am not here to explain the logistics of the legalities that are in violation conducted throughout the approval process as you are aware of what the justifiable claims on our behalf are as they are currently being addressed here today, through written email, in the media expanding international awareness and especially in the third circuit court by 6 petitioners who have dedicated much time, energy and love to protect and preserve our Mountain from over development that will have great impact on many levels. This includes adverse environmental impacts as well as adverse effects on the culture of our people, native Hawaiians and non-native Hawaiians who seek to keep the purity of nature and perpetuate love for the aina, oceans, fresh waters and all the interconnection of keeping a healthy ecosystem in which we are a part of physically as well as mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

I am here today to share my personal connection to our Mauna and how this connection has allowed me to stand before you today. About two years ago I journeyed to Lake Waiau with ohana to conduct a very special ceremony that was done for many years throughout the history of Hawaii as part of our indigenous Hawaiian culture. My fiancé and I took my daughters piko, umbilical cord, up to our mauna to carry on a tradition that many still do today in their chosen location as they would bury it or allow its descent into the waters in which the keiki would be always be connected to this place. This location was chosen for my daughters piko upon having a dream 6 months prior of Lake Waiau as well as asking the guardians of Waiau if this was meant to be. As many know fresh water sources were often homes of guardians we call mo‘o wahine and Lake Waiau is home to mo‘oinanea amongst who we consulted in prayer prior to making this important decision. At this time the waters of our lake were very low and their was much concern of her condition. Upon acknowledgment and acceptance of our intentions, we took her piko as a hookupu to our Waiau and Mauna to carry on this sacred tradition in hopes to maintain a connection to our mountain and to give gratitude for the mountains existence as she plays a
special function in our existence. We prayed for the waters of Waiau to return. We prayed and chanted for healing of the land and waters yes for the mauna and waiau but also for healing of the honua or mother earth herself as much is taking place as far as improper developments of our natural resources globally in which our land and waters cannot sustain much longer without permanent damage and severe repercussions in forms of natural disaster and extreme adverse environmental changes. We prayed for healing and strength for our people in Hawaii as many struggle for diverse reasons. We also had a group of keiki learning about the significance of Aloha Aina or love for our land and waters share what they wanted to see differently in terms of our environment, land and waters in which they wrote down and we shared to the universe so all could hear their love.

This interaction with nature in which we deem kupuna as Mauna A Wakea and all thats around us including the universe was essential to us. Through this relationship knowledge and wisdom was gained. And we only used this knowledge in mindful ways to sustain ourselves here on earth, not for just mere curiosity to satisfy the minds craving to just know. And being mindful is wise. We applied what we learned and knew how to maintain balance as to continue being a part of creation instead of abstract from it and we still progressed. This connection that embraces all elements and not just one was once almost lost in native Hawaiian history in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s as culture and traditions even language was banned. But it was not lost and it cannot nor will it ever be because those who remember where this connection came from which is from our ancestors, our kupuna who we descend from live through us. And we are still here. Until we are all gone, depleted than perhaps there may be opportunities like the TMT to be built without opposition but we are not. Further more, magic lays in the word ALOHA, LOVE at its highest potential. Aloha is universal. It is not reserved for only Hawaiians but extends to all. It is a basis to the word humanity regardless of color and race. And this aloha we shared as a Hawaiian people was embraced by many who understand our culture and ways of life that allowed us to survive for thousands of years before western colonization. Because of this Aloha, humanity and our connection to nature can be preserved by not just one peoples, not one culture but by any across the honua, world, who is willing to discern for themselves what is pono, right, or hewa, wrong in accordance to knowledge, understanding, morality, principles, and values and act upon it in the manner that they choose that is in alignment with true aloha for people, land, waters and oceans. In accordance to the amount of support presently to protect Mauna A Wakea from the development of the TMT by kanaka of the Hawaii Island, the State of Hawaii, various residents as well as indigenous peoples in the United States and internationally as well as various community groups and University of Hawaii Councils, students, faculty and staff; my family on behalf of our kupuna who came before us and generations who will follow after us humbly asks that you rescind your decision in choosing to build this on our revered, majestic, sacred Mountain Mauna Kea.