April 15, 2015
University of Hawai‘i
Board of Regents

Testimony on the Management of Maunakea and the Maunakea Science Reserve

My name is Ka‘ala Fay Ku‘upualehua Camara, age 35, of Kaunakakai, Moloka‘i.

ʻO Hawaiʻi kuʻu kulāiwi
Mai nā kūpuna mai
ʻAʻohe mea nāna e kūʻai
I ke ewe o kuʻu mau iwi

Mahalo to ‘Anakala Lale, Dr. Larry K. Kimura for his mele (song) and his insight into the knowledge and cultural gems of our Hawaiian language and traditions. He was instrumental in preserving the cultural integrity of the ʻike (knowledge) that the University of Hawaiʻi’s reknown Imiloa Astronomy Center offers to the community. It is my hope that the University of Hawaiʻi, in its capacity as the center for higher education in Hawaiʻi, will take responsibility for the lack of proper management and follow through in their many versions of extensive comprehensive management plans for Maunakea over the past 47 years. For me, 47 years, 13 observatory complexes, and acres upon acres of dug up, disturbed, desecrated sacred lands on Maunakea is enough. It is far too much and it is a painful loss that we will carry into the eternities. There is no sum of money or scientific benefit that would put the Thirty Meter Telescope atop Maunakea.

She is our piko (umbilicus), our connection to our past, our great lineage. She is our piko, our connection to our future generations. She is our piko, our connection to the cosmos, the heavens, and the akua (gods). To cut such a tie is to kill the mauli (spirit) that is the essence of a kanaka Hawaiʻi (Hawaiian being).

Hawai‘i is the land where my bones belong to the plains
A land left in our care by our ancestors and gods
There is no monetary value
That would move me to sacrifice my homeland

A mau loa aka, We will live on through her always…