To University of Hawaii Board of Regents
Re: Opposition to tmt- Protect Maunakea
April 15, 2015

Aloha kākou,

Today I write to you as a mother, a Hawaiian, an educator, and a poʻe aloha ʻāina.

First, as a mother and educator concerned about the health of natural resources we are conceding to our future generations. We, including my children and students, lead a focused research on all available resources regarding this controversy. After reviewing the facts, and entering into extensive debates, I, we, stand unanimously in opposition of the construction of the thirty meter telescope on the peak of Maunakea, for reasons related to the adverse affects on the water, wildlife, and other natural resources in that "conservation district", and the desecration of the sacred value it holds culturally. You do not need to be a scientist to see that the plans for construction, operation, and maintenance of this telescope will have far reaching negative impacts on every essence of Maunakea and the spirit of the people fighting so hard to protect this gem. We are waiting to see if the power of money trumps the power of the people.

Secondly, I am writing as a Hawaiian and a poʻe aloha ʻāina, someone who TRULY loves this land, in it’s most raw and natural form, from the māmāne trees of Maunakea’s uplands on the island of Hawaii to the limu o Manuakepa on Kauai’s reefs. I care about protecting it’s valuable natural resources, and maintaining the balance of all natural ecosystems. I care for the culture, surely persisting through the western influence of “globalization”. I care for the people, absorbed by indoctrination, still struggling to hold onto the truth of the history of colonial oppression.

I am opposed to ALL further development and desecration of our lands and the continued transgressions against our lands, culture, and people in the name of greed, corruption, and cultural oppression.

Somehow this project has managed to weasel its way through, despite the laws protecting its sacredness and the delicate balance of the environment- perhaps due to political corruption on behalf of our decision makers and agencies entrusted to protect Maunakea.
And still the question remains, are the benefits of the telescope and the discovery of outer space so great that you are willing to destroy the very mother Earth that sustains us? And if so, who exactly does it benefit other than the rich elite stakeholders?

Awareness is rising, and voices will be heard! We are raising our children to be consciously awake! And they will raise their children the same! The fight is not over! It will not be over until there is justice and healing! In this generation and the next, we will continue to kūpa’a ma hope o ka ‘āina, and stand firmly behind the land!

I leave you to ponder the idea that maybe the answers to our continued survival is not in the advancement of futuristic science, but in the past, where science and the love of the land not only coexisted in harmony, but were one in the same.

We are protesting against the construction of the TMT at Maunakea.

“But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself”. -Rachel Carson

Power of aloha>Love of Power

Sincerely,

Sherisse Leialoha Cambonga
Po’e Aloha ‘Āina