Honorable Members of the Board of Regents, I deeply appreciate this opportunity to share my mana’o regarding the University’s management and stewardship of the Mauna Kea astronomy precinct.

My name is James R. Kennedy. My family and I have been residents of East Hawai‘i for more than 17 years. I have been involved in astronomy efforts on Hawai‘i Island since 1986.

I hold a PhD in physics from the University of Florida, and until I retired, I was an Associate Director of the Gemini Observatory. I have the honor of being a Vice Chair of the County of Hawai‘i Workforce Investment Board, a past president of the Hawai‘i Island Chamber of Commerce, a past committee chair for Hawai‘i Island United Way, and I am a member of a number of other civic organizations.

I also was honored to be invited to serve for several years as a founding member of the inaugural University of Hawai‘i Maunakea Management Board. As an observatory manager, this afforded me a unique opportunity to experience the efforts of the University to engage the broad range of interests and perspectives in the long-term management of the astronomy presence on Maunakea.

In my opinion, the creation of the Office of Maunakea Management and its Board was a most timely, well conceived, and executed effort, which continues to be a fair and effective tool in managing the summit region with broad input from the various stakeholders.

During my term on the Management Board, and ever since then as a citizen, I see this effort going forward in a most effective way, resulting in the Management Plan, both as a document and as an operational tool, being faithfully followed by the Office of Maunakea Management and its Board. The Office has an excellent leader and a competent staff that work tirelessly to carry out their mission. Likewise, the Management Board and its Committees have consistently been an excellent group for involved and effective people, who represent a clear balance of the various interests in the Mountain.

I respect the fact that with such a broad range of interests, like many other human activities, it is impossible to please everyone. Indeed, these continue to be challenging times. Nevertheless, I am quite confident that the University, through the agency of the Office and Board, has made great progress in meeting the challenges of providing for the stewardship of the Maunakea summit.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Kennedy, PhD