My name is Mahina Patterson, I am 25 years old, and I am a kama of Waimea. As a mamo Hawai‘i, Mauna a Wākea, is my kūpuna. I graduated from the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo with honors as a regent scholar in 2011 with a B.A. in Geography and Hawaiian Studies. I have it made my life’s passion to interpret, preserve, and perpetuate the intimate relationship between people and place, especially here in Hawai‘i.

I am strongly opposed to the building of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) for a number of reasons ranging from political, environmental, and cultural perspectives. However, I know that one reason alone should suffice.

Mauna a Wākea is a temple - in no way limited to the man-made structures built upon the land in times past. The mauna itself is a religious sacred site. The building of the TMT furthers the historical desecration of our most sacred, spiritual site in Hawaii, the Pacific, and indeed the world.

Lanakila Mangauil, a forerunner of this aloha ‘āina movement, in the interruption of the TMT groundbreaking ceremony shared a beautiful sentiment, “This is not what this generation needs.” ‘Ae, pololei, this is far from what our generation needs.

Hawai‘i is a leader in the movement of indigenous language and culture revitalization. We also have the opportunity to be a leader in sustainability, as we are often looked to as a microcosm for the world as an island nation with limited resources. “Why, because our world is dying!” Lanakila expresses. As the most isolated landmass in the world we have a kuleana to pioneer sustainable living today - to exemplify what pono living on this earth looks like.

Let’s send the right message to the world. Let’s show them that we still,

Honor and uphold the indigenous language and culture of this land.

Have reverence for sacred places.

Value this earth more than our curious quest for knowledge.

Believe that the earth not money is the God that sustains life.

You have the mana to put a stop to this and make pono decisions. As kama of this land we cannot allow this any longer. We will speak out and indeed act out if necessary to stop the desecration of our piko kaulana. No ku‘u lāhui e hā‘awi pau a i ola mau!

E KŪ KIAʻI MAUNA!

E KŪ!

KŪ MAI KE KAMA KĪPUʻUPUʻU!