Aloha Board Members,

Mahalo for holding a special meeting and for accepting public comment. I am very much opposed to the TMT Project and any further development on Mauna Kea. From both a cultural perspective as well as an environmental perspective, the proposed telescope is detrimental. The true environmental impact of the telescope can only be understood after construction, which will be too late to reverse. More importantly, it is time to respect Mauna Kea as a sacred site that should be protected from further disturbance. The Hawaiian culture has suffered enough under the pretense of progress. The mountain is sacred, the proposed construction site is within the realm set aside for the akua, no human activity should be conducted there. Yes, other telescopes are already there, but more wrongs and further desecration do not make a right. Past mistakes should not be used to justify new ones. According to Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, scientific progress and moral progress must go hand in hand. In this day and age, I do not think it is moral nor ethical to ignore the mother culture of Hawai‘i. Please draw the line and stop the TMT Project.

Mahalo for your time,

Sincerely,

Thea T.J. Shapiro