testimony - Support for TMT

terryl king <terryl808mtv@gmail.com>  Fri, Apr 17, 2015 at 8:33 AM
To: bor@hawaii.edu

Aloha Board Members,

Dr. Lassner was gracious to receive an email from me earlier this week in support of the TMT project. I hope that note was shared with the entire board.

I am writing today to the board as a whole because I am concerned about what was reported last night on Hawaii News Now and in this morning’s Hawaii Tribune Herald relative to yesterday’s special session regents meeting at UHH.

First and foremost thank you to each board member for extending every attendee, regardless of position, view or statement the time and aloha to be heard. I support everyone's right to express themselves and air their concerns in the richest traditions of both the kanaka maoli ho'oponopono and those guaranteed by the constitutional protections of the USA.

I am however concerned that, if taken only on the testimony provided yesterday in person or written submission that the board may be receiving a skewed, lopsided view. I sincerely believe that more supporting testimony would have (or will be) provided were it not for a level of intimidation the emotionalism of the opposition brings to bear. While I accuse no individual nor the entire group of conducting themselves inappropriately, the board might find it very understandable how supporters of this or ANY project stay away from such opportunities for public expression when members of the kanaka maoli like Mr. Bronson Kaahui of Maui (Civil Beat Op Ed, 4/9/15) state they have borne intimidation and death threats for speaking in support. IF kanaka maoli are in fact being targeted thus, why would anyone not of the kanaka maoli risk the same or, worse; run the the risk of the added potential issues of racism being heaped upon them?

In short there is a reason why the board received what appeared to be "overwhelming opposition" to the project: supporters may have stayed away in droves due to the potential risk. If you have not been provided with a link to Miss Mailani Neal's very articulate supporting kanaka maoli petition to Governor Ige, please view it here. There are, as of this writing, some 1892 supporting signatures therein: nearly 90% more that the reported number of written testimonials submitted in opposition (1,010 per HTH article).

Miss Neal, along with Mr. Kaahui, have delineated a very articulate supporting kanaka maoli point of view for TMT and Miss Neal has provided a voice for those of all races, all over the world, wishing to express their support. I implore the board to look beyond the numbers that "show up" for these open meetings. Likewise I urge the board to consider that seven years of compromise, listening and exceptional cultural and environmental sensitivity has been extended to ALL of Hawai’i, kanaka maoli or no, to bring this project to fruition. I believe more than sufficient consideration has been extended thus far and the project should be allowed to move forward. I do support TMT for a great many reasons, but utmost because of the connection it will provide for all of human kind to the cosmos. I do not support stoppage, alteration, cancellation or any other overly politicized position the opposition has mounted of late.

Thank you for literally bending over backwards to ensure here in year EIGHT that all voices are heard, but the TMT Partners and the project should not be held hostage to a never ending clamor of 'we are not being heard.' Continuing indefinitely to allow voices already heard, to be heard again and again and again is exceptional aloha, yes, but it is decidedly not pono and certainly not within the spirit of ho'oponopono. I would respectfully submit there can be no ho'oponopono when one side's entire position is "no!" with no hope of compromise. The project has cleared legal and assessment hurdles to sufficient degree to be granted the required permits and to enter into a sub-lease with UH: it is time to let them act upon them and build this amazing tool of discovery.

Yours most sincerely and respectfully,

Terryl King
Hawaii Island Resident