Aloha,

My name is Lilia'ikamalanai P. Inciong Aki, I am currently a kanaka maoli and a student at Hawaii Community College. I'm writing in regards to the management of Mauna Kea in relation to the construction of the TMT telescope. I have researched in length on the pros and cons of TMT and have attended the BOR meeting on 4/16/15 at UH Hilo.

Out of my research and listening to those testifying at the meeting, I find that the University and OMKM has made a poor decision in allowing the construction of a 30 meter telescope on Mauna Kea. Before I begin, I would like to state that I'm not against science nor the field of astronomy.

There are three main points that I would like to make:

1) Mauna Kea is an aquifer and its area covers Hilo, Hamakua, and Waimea. For TMT to say that the construction or presence of a 30-Meter telescope would not affect our water supply, is incorrect. If I may, as an analogy, let's use a water filter for a pitcher. Water goes into that filter, the filter removes impurities from the water and the result is drinkable water. Now most manufacturers state that the filter's should be changed every 3 months. Why, because after the three months the efficiency of the filter is decreased. Mauna Kea is a natural filtration system, the big difference is that we can't replace it. There is no way that TMT can state that it will not contribute in anyway for toxins to get into the soil and be deposited into our drinking water, runoff from the current telescopes are already contaminated the water. As stewards of the land we need to remember that water is our most precious natural resource on this planet. Without water life would not exist on this planet. Our water resources are already stressed due to the amount of people moving to the island, with TMT and its 130 added employees, this will only add to the stress of this precious resource.

2) There are 12 telescopes on Mauna Kea already and of those telescopes only 4 are operational, the rest have been abandoned. We have heard to many promises over the years that these telescopes will be decommissioned and torn down, yet they still remain. Is this the future that we have to look forward too. Astronomers in the name of science come to Mauna Kea and then abandon the structures allowing them to rot. Is this how OMKM, UH Hilo, and astronomers show that they are good stewards of the land? If you were a landlord and your tenant constantly trashed the property, would you not evict them from the property?

3) As Dr. Chang stated in his testimony having TMT on Mauna Kea is due to pride. To boast that the largest telescope is located on the largest mountain is the pride of all Hawaii astronomers. To have a telescope of this magnitude built just because of "bragging rights" does not justify the further desecration of Mauna Kea.

As stated in the OMGM website "To provide effective management strategies that protect, balance, integrate, and enhance Maunakea's resources we must keep in mind that 1) Maunakea is a culturally significant site, 2) Maunakea’s high elevation areas are unique global resources that should be preserved for future generations, 3) Management activities will be focused on limiting human impacts on cultural and natural resources, 4) Input from the larger community for planning and execution of resource management programs, and 5) take into account long term global environmental factors such as climate change." By supporting TMT OMGM is not upholding to the above statements. TMT will impact the resources and OMGM has not listened to the community at large or to the native people of this land. 53,000 people have signed a petition against TMT at the BOR meeting on 4/16 it was revealed that only 28 out of the 1,000(+) written testimonies were for TMT and only 1 person testified in support of TMT. The people have spoken and it is time for the BOR to listen to the people. Stop the building of TMT.

Our natural resources are not for sale. This is bigger than money, we have a responsibility as humans to protect our resources for future generations.
Mahalo for your time.

Lilia Inciong Aki