Dear UH BOR Members:

I respectfully submit this testimony IN FAVOR of TMT. I wish I could present testimony in person, but I have a conflicting commitment that I made six months ago.

I am an alumna of UH Manoa, having earned my BA, MEd, and Ph D there. I worked for UHM and UH Hilo for 28 years, retiring from my position as Director of International Student Services at UH Hilo 4 years ago.

I support the Thirty Meter Telescope because:

1) The project has complied with all the laws and regulations required to obtain permits to build the telescope at its carefully selected site on Mauna Kea. This was a very open and thorough process, which took cultural concerns into account.

2) If the State of Hawai‘i were to renege on the permits the TMT project has obtained, future beneficial projects would be thwarted because the State would be seen internationally as untrustworthy.

3) If the State of Hawai‘i and County of Hawai‘i do not allow the TMT project to proceed and protect the people and property involved, they could be sued by the project and we tax payers would have to pay for the legal process and fines that TMT would rightfully win.

The fact that the vocal opposition is very well organized through social media must not be construed as their being right or being in the majority. Where were these hundreds of "protectors of Mauna Kea" during the 6-7 year permitting process? This train has left the station. UH and all other State bodies involved in granting the TMT the right to proceed must do the honorable, legal thing and support the TMT now.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Robison