Via email: bor@hawaii.edu

Board of Regents
University of Hawai`i
2500 Campus Road
Honolulu HI 96822

RE: Letter of Support for Thirty Meter Telescope

Aloha Members of the Board:

As a 4th generation Hawaii resident whose family arrived here in the 1890’s and helped build the Hawaii we all enjoy now through their blood, sweat and tears, I and my family have as much a stake in this debate as anyone else. Born and raised in Hilo, I am a graduate of local schools and returned home to raise my children in this community that I love.

It tears me apart to see the anger and emotionalism dividing members of the community. I urge you all to not be swayed by the emotional pleas against TMT. Everyone -- pro-TMT and anti-TMT -- had a full and fair opportunity to have their voices heard during the lengthy approval process. The VAST MAJORITY of the community spoke, and spoke LOUDLY AND CLEARLY, during the 7+ year process to approve this project IN FAVOR OF TMT BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY. We had a true cross-section of the community represented during this process -- the business community, organized labor, education, students, families concerned for their children’s education and economic opportunity, and the “silent majority” of our community that felt strongly about supporting this project. The process was lengthy and the supporters of TMT were respectful and patient throughout. We knew what we were doing was respectful of the community, the island, the mountain and our children. We knew that supporting the TMT project and, more broadly, astronomy and the sciences, was a very good thing that would improve our community, our knowledge and enable our children to prepare to compete in the twenty-first century.

Please know that the “silent majority” continues to strongly support this project. In conversations I have had with many people here on Hawaii Island that support is and remains very strong. One young father told me that he looked forward to the job opportunities that the TMT would bring. Even if he did not get a job directly working for TMT, it would increase the wage base for companies that would need to compete with TMT and other employers for employees. He was hopeful for the improvement TMT would bring to his ability to support his family and for future job opportunities for his young daughter and future children he and his wife may be blessed to have.
A dark side of this debate that is threatening to silence many supporting voices of TMT is the threats of violence and tremendous amount of intimidation of pro-TMT comments through social media and peer pressure. This environment of threats and intimidation is contrary to law and our representative republic form of government. It threatens mob rule and is wrong. A copy of a local website article discussing JUST ONE example of this is enclosed. I call on the Board to see through this despicable intimidation and recognize the many voices that are being silenced right now throughout our community because of fear of the threats of violence. I urge the Board to respect the 7+ year legal process in which all sides have ALREADY HAD their say and move forward in support of TMT.

I understand that this will be the first Mauna Kea sublease where there is significant lease rent payable to the University of Hawai‘i. In addition, I understand that TMT will also be providing observing time to the University of Hawai‘i and that a percentage of the lease rent will also go to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

I am satisfied that TMT will comply with the Comprehensive Management Plan and the four subplans that currently exist. Please continue to support TMT as this is good for UH, Hawai‘i, as well as humankind.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider this very important issue for Hawaii Island and the State of Hawaii. It affects us all and will have a lasting impact not only on us but on future generations. TMT will become a great resource and asset for our community. I look at my children and believe that the TMT will be making their future as well as the futures of their children on Hawaii Island a brighter one.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

VAUGHN G. T. COOK

Enclosure
Obscenity-laced Facebook post calls for killing telescope supporters ...

http://www.tihnd.net/2015/04/24/obscenity-laced-facebook-post-calls-...

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Obscenity-laced Facebook post calls for killing telescope supporters [Updated]

April 24th, 2015 • 26 Comments

The author of an obscenity-laced tirade advocating the killing or beating of supporters of the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea has apologized for his words and actions.

"I am truly sorry for the offense," said Brannon Kamahana Kealoha, who has been prominent in the Sacred Mauna Kea movement.

The threatening and obscene rant reportedly appeared on Facebook yesterday.

"Fuck all these supporters of TMT!" the post said. "Their throats should be slashed and their blood should be spilled on our Sacred Mauna A Wakea!"

"TMT supporters should get the life beat out of them if they step foot on our Sacred Mauna!" the post continued.

The obscene and threatening post was published under the Facebook name, "Kealoha Kahunaaana Iona." The account actually belongs to Kealoha, who says he started the account using three family names several years ago when he was trying to bring together several parts of his extended family.
According to his Facebook page, Kealoha is a University of Hawaii student scheduled to graduate next month with degrees in Anthropology and Hawaiian Language.

He is also listed as the creator of the Sacred Mauna Kea Fund, associated with the Sacred Mauna Kea protest group. The fund has already raised more than $11,000 through an online site, gofundme.com, for inter island travel in support of the TMT protests.

Reached today by telephone, Kealoha apologized profusely.

“I take full responsibility for my irrational, inflammatory, and insensitive words that happened in the past,” Kealoha said.

He said the post was not recent, and was related to two additional posts that were part of an exchange more than a year ago with a woman in Florida. He said he has learned, and changed, in the interim.

“I am not that person in that screen shot, I am this living human being that has become someone else, who has learned, has changed, and has become a better person,” he said.

Kealoha’s post used the disparaging and obscene “C-word”, slang for a woman that refers to the female anatomy, to refer to all project supporters, male and female alike. He usually added an obscenity as an adjective.

Dictionary.com calls the term “one of the most hateful and powerful examples of verbal abuse in the English language.”

Kealoha’s post heaped special venom on Mailani Neal, a senior at Hawaii Preparatory Academy and former Kamehameha student, who recently launched her own online petition supporting the telescope project. Her petition was reported last week by the Hawaii Tribune-Herald and KITV.

Kealoha referred to Neal with a profanity, and said she should be “f—en dealt with blows.”

“...(T)he return of our Kingdom is at hand and anyone who stands in our way will learn,” he wrote.

The post was later deleted, but not before it was liked by at least three people, and copied and reposted by at least one other Facebook user, who called it “threatening and pure evil.”

“If this is how these Hawaiian Protesters act with such hate and violent threats, something seriously needs to be done quickly,” she wrote.

Project supporters say there have been numerous reports of intimidation and bullying by protestors against Hawaii Island supporters, as well as union workers on the TMT job. Some have been serious enough that they were reported to police.

Kealoha could not explain why the post contained references to Neal’s pro-TMT petition, which went online April 13, 2015, and said he was trying to determine when it was written.

“But I can guarantee you that between April 13th and now, I have not posted that,” he said.

(Visited 920 times, 920 today)

Tags: Court · environment · Politics

26 responses so far ↓

• 1 Pat // Apr 24, 2015 at 9:42 am

Really disturbing. Thanks for publicizing this, Ian. I want to see how the TMT opponents deal with this nutcase. And, given Iona’s status as a UH student, should UH administrators get involved? The Oklahoma University frat members were choir boys compared to this.

• 2 Patty // Apr 24, 2015 at 10:02 am

Good points, Pat, and I echo your thanks to Ian. This really reflects poorly on the student and UH.
• 3 Ryan // Apr 24, 2015 at 10:10 am

Fascinating. He’s now saying that the screenshot (or, at least, a screenshot) was taken “many moons ago” and was directed at Lana Ah Lan Desilva, not Mailani. And says (four times) that it was taken out of context.

If he’s not talking about the screenshot you’ve posted (within a few hours of publishing and specifically referencing Mailani), I wonder what the other one says.

• 4 ula // Apr 24, 2015 at 10:23 am

Why on UH? Anyone can get into UH. Not everyone should get to stay at UH.

The page shot is not free speech as it advocates violence. If he is on campus, he should be immediately removed and banned. Indeed UH should turn him over to HPD because this reads as a death threat to another undergraduate and to all opponents of the telescope.

I commiserate with the opponents as he has done considerable damage to their movement. They ask for respect for their beliefs. Now they have to explain that those beliefs include the value of human lives.

In a recent posting, he is showing no remorse.

“Many moons ago I got into an intense debate with Lana Ah Lan Desilva over the TMT, which has been an incredibly emotional and polarizing issue for many of us. Lana and I do not share the same perspective, and the exchange became extremely heated, and I said many terrible, unacceptable things in the anger of the moment.

They in now way or form were ever directed towards nor meant towards the 17 year old girl named Mailani who has taken a position for the TMT to be constructed. I support her efforts to stand up for what she believes.”

“In response to an erroneous screenshot of a two-way filthy exchange occurring almost a year ago, taking my words out of context- a mindless attempt to undermine a movement... and what our beloved Prince Kuhio would call “ʻaʻuma”...”

https://www.facebook.com/kamahana/posts/10206548146242935

Th

• 5 t // Apr 24, 2015 at 11:03 am

I was just wondering if this might happen. Hawaii has long been in need of new inspiring leaders — but some leaders take their followers in a deadly direction.


• 6 big hero six // Apr 24, 2015 at 11:08 am

This is a good reminder to those who intentionally establish themselves as leaders of a movement for the purpose of galvanizing a mob.

Hope y’all are paying attention to those who injected themselves (or their orgs) into the fray. These movements distinguish those who have the ability to lead.

• 7 Brannon Kamahana Kealoha // Apr 24, 2015 at 11:22 am

This post misrepresents the truth and although there is some truth to it, which I take responsibility for, this post occurred nearly a year ago and attempts to undermine the good and the journey I continue to be on to become the good we want to see in the world.

The so-called “rant” did not happen yesterday. FACT.

The screenshot does not include the threat to bodily harm and all the rest that led up to this coming from the trolling party.

In response to an erroneous screenshot of a two-way filthy exchange occurring almost a year ago, taking my words out of context- a mindless attempt to undermine a movement... and what our beloved Prince Kuhio would call “ʻaʻuma”..."

An open “letter” to my brethren and sistren of the sacred IEWE HOOKAHI.

Please feel free to share.

I mahalo all those who have had the true Hawaiian heart and Pono to understand that the whole of who any one person is is not a snapshot or screen shot for trolls to take out of context... and that any one moment, person, or incident taken out of context does not define myself nor this movement.

In the true spirit of transparency and everything that comes with growing into becoming the change we all want to see in the world I offer a truth that may be missing in the discourse of the rampant trolls who insist on blockading not the TMT but the GOOD that is and will happen, to them I say:

We are winning. We will free out Mauna.

To the true aloha aina of this movement, with humility I say:
I Aloha and mahalo all those who have put their faith in our cause and the cause of Sacred Mauna Kea Hui and it is with grace and dignity we should all be evolving.

I ka ʻIlelo ke ola, i ka ʻIlelo ka make, in words is life and in words is death.

This is a well-known Hawaiian proverb that reminds us that the words we speak have great power for good and for harm.

Many moons ago [or whenever] I got into an intense debate with Lana x over the TMT, which has been an incredibly emotional and polarizing issue for many of us. Lana and I do not share the same perspective, and the exchange became extremely heated, and I said many terrible, unacceptable things in the anger of the moment.

The TMT debate has been highly charged and passionate on both sides, an important reason the Kapu Aloha was put in place. I was not at all speaking from a place of aloha, I was engaging in ʻIlelo hoʻomake, and that was not pono or appropriate.

I did see I was wrong for doing so, and deleted the exchange, but not before Lana took a screen shot. I am greatly saddened that she has chosen to use my terrible words out of context, words spoken in anger and frustration at someone I felt was gleefully supporting the desecration and destruction of the piko of our culture, and who provoked my instinct to defend the sacred mauna by striking back in rage, and well outside the parameters of Kapu Aloha.

Most of all, I am sorry that my vile, violent words are being used against the Mauna Kea protectors and our collective unity of aloha ʻina, as a ploy to try and distract all of us from the real issue and danger at hand, the looming threat of the TMT development, and our steadfast aloha for our ʻina.

I apologize to Lanakila, Kahoʻokahi, all the protectors of the mauna, all the poʻe aloha ʻina, the cultural practitioners, k?puna, and most of all, to our wahi, Hawaiian and others, who have been offended by my words.

There are many times I fall short of living Kapu Aloha. The mana of the mountain, and the growing global support of the movement has been humbling.

Please feel free to copy+paste and share everywhere. We cannot allow trolls to undermine all that is good and all that we, including myself, have collectively struggled through- with many challenges similar to this- to awaken and inspire a true movement of aloha!

https://youtu.be/J0YycW1TTLk?t=11m56s

• 8 Leihulu // Apr 24, 2015 at 11:28 am

This is the direct hoʻoponopono effort and apology made by the gentleman involved in this incident with Lana which actually happened over a year ago, not yesterday.

After this incident much growth was made in the direction of owning and acknowledging past mistakes and trying to right the wrong. This is that olive branch…

For the people who must, with aloha:

In response to an erroneous screenshot of a two-way filthy exchange occurring almost a year ago, taking my words out of context- a mindless attempt to undermine a movement… and what our beloved Prince Kuhio would call “ʻaʻama”—

An open “letter” to my brethren and sistren of the sacred IEWE HOOKAHI.

Please feel free to share.

I mahalo all those who have had the true Hawaiian heart and Pono to understand that the whole of who any one person is is not a snapshot or screen shot for trolls to take out of context… and that any one moment, person, or incident taken out of context does not define myself nor this movement.

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They in no way or form were ever directed towards nor meant towards the 17 year old girl named Mailani who has taken a position for the TMT
to be constructed. I support her efforts to stand up for what she believes.

The TMT debate has been highly charged and passionate on both sides, an important reason the Kapu Aloha was put in place. I was not at all speaking from a place of aloha, I was engaging in ‘lēlo ho‘omake, and that was not pono or appropriate.

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I apologize to Joshua Lanakila Mangauil, Kahookahi Kanuha, all the protectors of the mauna, all the po’e aloha ‘āina, the cultural practitioners, kīpuna, and most of all, to our wahi‘ae, Hawaiian and others, who have been offended by my words.

There are many times I fall short of living Kapu Aloha. The mana of the mountain, and the growing global support of the movement has been humiliating.

Please feel free to copy+paste and share everywhere. We cannot allow trolls to undermine all that is good and all that we, including myself, have collectively struggled through- with many challenges similar to this- to awaken and inspire a true movement of aloha!

https://youtu.be/JOYycWITTLk?t=11m56s

• 9 big hero six // Apr 24, 2015 at 12:05 pm

It’s difficult for me to understand how the comments from Brannon and Leihulu above (which appear to be about a different incident from the one described in lan’s post) can be characterized as an olive branch.

There is divisive, violent rhetoric put out there for pretty much any issues that allows a range of opinions and beliefs (rail, development, GMOs, LGBT, sex ed in schools, religion). But in our world today, that rhetoric is merely a click away from anyone who wants to find the slightest motivation to do actual harm.

How about we all pay attention to the messages coming from elected officials (past or present) as well as from the leaders of special interest groups (which includes environmental organizations, charities and extends to FB pages).

My understanding is that political campaigners feel it is appropriate to demonize and direct venom at your opponent (http://www.civilbeat.com/2014/10/denby-fawcett-saving-tuls-gabbard/). The saddest part will be getting to the point where the trickle-down hate becomes what we expect and we do nothing about it.

• 10 t // Apr 24, 2015 at 12:11 pm

“Brannon Kamahana Kealoha” and” Leihulu”:

“They in no way or form were ever directed towards nor meant towards the 17 year old girl named Mailani who has taken a position for the TMT to be constructed. I support her efforts to stand up for what she believes.”

uh, the vicious Facebook post names “Mailani.” What are you talking about here?

http://ilind.net/misc%20/2015/iona_facebook.jpg

• 11 John Miller // Apr 24, 2015 at 12:39 pm

This is, of course, not the first time in history that religious zealots have threatened or resorted to violence. Unfortunately, it won’t be the last.

• 12 Juicy J // Apr 24, 2015 at 12:42 pm

Clear violation of student code of conduct:

“Any conduct which threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person including but not limited to, physical abuse, verbal abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion, or stalking.”

(http://studentaffairs.manoa.hawaii.edu/policies/conduct_code/proscribed_conduct.php)

I’m all for spirited discussion. But this isn’t that.

• 13 Cathy Goeggel // Apr 24, 2015 at 12:49 pm

Where are the puddles ???

• 14 kaimaile // Apr 24, 2015 at 12:53 pm

They have done damage made threats, to myself n others, desecrated our lands but don’t worry PELE is alive and well, we won’t have to wait for long wether they decide to listen to us who spiritually know what to do, or not the gods are awaken and the leader of All gods is pissed action
Obscenity-laced Facebook post calls for killing telescope supporters ...

http://www.illind.net/2015/04/24/obscenity-laced-facebook-post-calls--

in the ring of fire has already started........

- 15 JC // Apr 24, 2015 at 1:08 pm

And the time stamp reference of 19 hours ago? Something is not adding up...

- 16 t // Apr 24, 2015 at 1:16 pm

Civil Beat has a column today devoted to the phrase “Haole”.

one person, who identifies himself as a Law Enforcement Officer at Securitas Security Services, posted a very fitting comment in response:

“Lately it’s not easy to be anyone in Hawaii.”

sad but true ... unless you’re rich.

meanwhile, some idiot posted the usual immature cowardly amateur asinine response: if you no like it here ‘den leave.

- 17 Uh Clem // Apr 24, 2015 at 1:21 pm

I’m sure these Kealoha’s comments were made with great ALOHA, as they assure us all their hostile verbiage is.

- 18 Richard Gozinya // Apr 24, 2015 at 1:25 pm

As soon as the word “sacred” appears, fights break out. Funny, yeah? The definition of “sacred” is: connected with God (or the gods) or dedicated to a religious purpose and so deserving veneration.

- 19 Hawaiiano // Apr 24, 2015 at 1:32 pm

That’s as hostile an apology as I’ve seen in a while... seems to be the same chap as he was when he posted the “snapshot” that the “trolls” have exposed for all to see.

Something’s you can’t take back, you say it, you own it...

- 20 Aaron Stence // Apr 24, 2015 at 1:39 pm

I don’t buy his excuse or apology, Mailani Neal’s TMT petition was posted on line just recently, so he could’ve not made this comment recently -unless he has a time machine and went back in time.

- 21 Keith // Apr 24, 2015 at 1:55 pm

First of Ian, where are the cats! OK I was a UH student once, a looong time ago. In my time at UH I said some really stupid and vile things, many times out of anger or emotion. The difference is we didn’t have social media back then but looking back, what I did can be a learning experience for others. To the young person who posted that message, you gotta understand that sometimes words can obscure the message. The vulgarities you posted can turn off people who support your perspective. You already expressed your regret, that is fine, nuff, time to move on. Don’t do it again, but at the same time do not let this curtail your activism and social engagement. To all those who want to condemn this young persons, remember that saying about persons living in glass houses and throwing stones. Aloha.

- 22 Steve Lane // Apr 24, 2015 at 2:41 pm

Sadly, it is not just Mr. Kealoha’s hateful rant that we need to worry about. He has plenty of company if not quite as vocal, threatening or profane. These are deeply dangerous and delusional people. Especially troublesome are some of the distinguished members of the UH faculty that seem to be encouraging such behavior. This isn’t civil disobedience-it is criminal conduct! I think the governor made a terrible mistake by calling a “time out” -that he is now disavowing. The TMT has complied with all of the legal requirements to proceed with construction-latter day claims of “sacredness” not withstanding. The construction should proceed and anyone who physically interferes with this lawful activity should be arrested. Shame on the OHA Board for collapsing under mob rule!

- 23 t // Apr 24, 2015 at 3:04 pm

? Black ........... and blue /
And who knows which is which and who is who
Up ............ and down /
But in the end it’s only round and round
Haven’t you heard it’s a battle of words /
The poster bearer cried
Listen son, said the man with the gun /
There’s room for you inside ?

- 24 Judith // Apr 24, 2015 at 3:35 pm

Yes, I’d rather see your cats than read this hateful guy’s rants and so-called apologies. With all the hate he seems to contain within himself, he should go join al queda and hope he doesn’t get in the crossfire of a drone. In the meantime, I suppose we have to just endure all this nonsense. These worshipers of their mountain don’t seem very spiritual, do they?

- 25 Lana // Apr 24, 2015 at 3:43 pm
Thank you so much Ian for writing about this. His real name is Brannan Kamahana Kealoha Kamehameha Schools Class of 1995.

As you know Ian like your mom I also graduated from Kamehameha Schools... Class of 1985.

He is straight out lying. It was December 2014 when he called me the most vile names known to mankind.

In this latest post he thought that by deleting it that he could continue to lie to people.

The woman from Florida he is referring to is me. He wishes harm to me. Even in his follow up post he still does not apologize to me or to my former classmate’s mother Luwella Leonardi for telling us f*ck you and calling us c*nts. That is how evil he is.

- 26 Lana // Apr 24, 2015 at 4:18 pm

Leihulu --

One cannot ho’oponopono with Brannan Kamahana Kealoha Kamehameha Schools Class of 1995 who is not pono.

Mailani is a student at HPA which is in Kamuela on Moku o Keawe.

He straight up lied.

Note that not one did he apologize to me, Mailani who is only 18 years of age, or to my former classmate’s mother Kamehameha Schools’ Class of 1985.

He should get an Oscar for the most dramatic acting of the century.

It should be noted that his misogyny and violence directed to me does NOT represent all of the HARD work the TRUE Sacred Mauna Kea Hui have done and should not pay for his misogyny and violence directed towards me who is the person in Florida or to Mailani.

They are INNOCENT.

However Brannan Kamahana Kealoha Kamehameha Schools Class of 1995 exposed himself for the fraud and misogynist that he truly is.

It is on him. What he said to me is not what the TRUE Sacred Mauna Kea Hui said to me.

I do not make them pay for what he is doing to the Sacred Hawaiian Feminine.

It is on him and I am so glad that Ian Lind covered this. Now he has been caught in yet another lie.

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