testimony for support of telescope

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To: bor@hawaii.edu  
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I support the telescope and just as Nainoa Thompson says the Hawaiians were navigators of the oceans, we, the people of Hawaii should be navigators of the galaxy. Who better to be stewards of the galaxy than the people of Hawaii. I love Hawaii and there is no other place that is so special. Hawaii is a place where we all can live together peacefully appreciating and learning and enjoying our differences.

With that, It is my opinion that the telescope is a great beacon of hope that if done properly can help our community be navigators of the Galaxy and move positively in the future. The Big island is in desperate need jobs for our kids so they don't have to move away. Our university astronomy, other programs and Imiloa center need to stay vital and strong. Having this telescope will ensure their future and that of our university. We need our Daniel Inoyue highway to be completed all the way down to Kanoelehua avenue so we can travel easily from East to west. We need a healthy economy so we don't have to rely on welfare or government assisted programs. Our island has the worst roads, a huge problem with a lack of doctors, lack of county water, electric not to mention the highest crime, poverty and domestic violence issues in the State. Its sad as so many outlying communities are suffering...if we just look into our school system they serve 80 to 90% free or assisted lunches per day. For many this is the only hot meal they eat per day. Many of our elder and young families rely on food stamps and or general assistance to help with their basic needs. Just look at the State statistics or visit a school or watch the local news.

Perhaps instead of saying no to the telescope the State and University should pay a Hawaiian committee to oversee that the mountain grounds are cared for by a selected few. To guarantee that at least 25% percentage of jobs need to hire Big island residents. To give a portion of the mountain to create a Hawaiian sacred center so the Hawaiians have a place that is the "piko" or center of all of Hawaii.

Hawaii should become navigator's of the sky like they are navigators of the oceans.

Much love and Aloha
Gina Hara Chun, big island resident.
Sent from my Verizon Wireless 4G LTE DROID