Aloha Honorable Board of Regents members,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I am a student in my junior year at the UH at Hilo College of Business and Economics. I am also the student government representative for the College of Business and Economics. I was born in Hilo and have lived here my entire life.

This may appear to be naive, however this option has not been discussed regarding the TMT. While certainly Mauna Kea is the best place in the northern hemisphere for visibility, there is technology that would provide an even more visible and appropriate location that would ease the controversy. The technology has existed since 1990 with the success of the hubble telescope: space.

It is understandable that the TMT designers are not aware of Mauna Kea's relationship to our community because they are not from Hawaii. Thus it is understandable they may have not initially considered space as an option in the design of the TMT.

At the very least, an analysis should be done to determine the feasibility. This solution would may take more time but would be a project the local, national, and international communities could support.

According the greater numbers of those who have spoken out in opposition to the project compared to those who have spoken out in support of the TMT, it appears there is significantly more people that are opposed to the project. To move forward with the TMT would be to disregard the voices of the community whom the project most directly impacts.

To build the TMT on Mauna Kea is to place the biggest telescope in the world on a communities church. Not just any church, but a church that has been used for worship for centuries. The TMT project very simply unethical and other options must be implored. I am opposed to the continuance of the TMT project on Mauna Kea and frankly would be ashamed to be apart of the University of Hawaii if this project is continued.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jennifer Ruggles