To: The University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents

UH Performing Art Center
UH Hilo Campus
Sunday, April 26, 2015

Testimony Against the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT)

Aloha. My name is Mōhala Aiu. I am a Native Hawaiian and a concerned resident of Hilo. I am opposed to the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) because:

• Mauna Kea is a sacred place and our piko. This should not be discounted because many do not understand the concept. UH as a “Hawaiian place of learning” should respect this.
• The disputed land on top of Mauna Kea is a conservation district and I do not believe the eight criteria to build in this district were met even though the TMT was given approval. The mammoth size of this building alone and the disturbance to the area it would take to build it already violates the eight criteria. I believe that building in a conservation district should be held to a higher standard than building in areas that are designated for other purposes.
• The University of Hawai‘i, who manages the conservation district atop Mauna Kea has not been good stewards of the land. I see no change as far as the TMT goes, especially after the way its approval process has been done.
• I believe that Native Hawaiian viewpoints should be considered because this is ceded lands.

Mahalo for allowing me the chance to voice my opinion.

Mōhala Aiu