I write today to express my concern and dissatisfaction over UH’s supposed management of Mauna Kea and the Mauna Kea Science Reserve. I feel UH has failed the people of Hawai‘i. I feel the amount of observatories already on Mauna Kea is an absurd excess. As technology advances, steps should be taken to replace/enhance current observatories, not keep building more.

I hear the current TMT project had gone through public review/exposure but in all the years living here in Hilo, I apparently failed to notice any said project in the works. I believe a project of this magnitude should have warranted significantly more, to say the least, community and state-wide outreach for feedback before proceeding. I feel UH deceived the people by marginally publicizing. I, a common resident, don’t go digging around for and looking up these types of things. I have trust that when “big” things are about, those with responsibility will be honest and diligent enough to assure it’s made known to the common public so that all concerned have a chance to chime in.

I feel UH is prostituting our land - releasing it for the pleasure of others, for financial gain, with no care for the soul that rests within. Please take note; I am not of Hawaiian descent. This is not a just a “Hawaiian” matter as I have come to hear many say. This is a matter of balance, preservation, dignity, sanctity, integrity, etc.

I’ve heard how TMT will allow Hawaii to be at the leading edge of this type of science and how it would allow Hawaii to spearhead and place a significant positive footprint across the world. The brilliant advances of yesteryear have left devastating effects on this place, this earth, which we are to pass on to future generations. I feel Hawaii should invest in and look into spearheading and placing a significant positive footprint across the world in the realm of sustainability, restoration and conservation of our earth. Not to downplay the marvel of space exploration, but I question, how does looking so deep into space help us in these areas, these problems of today, and to prevent these problems from compounding in the future?

You, the current UH Board of Regents, may not have been on board when the initial decisions to move forward with TMT took place. It’s never a delightful or easy task to clean a mess left behind or implemented by your predecessors. This however is the state my current generation is in – cleaning up the mess that came about by the decisions made by past generations. To move forward with TMT and not take corrective action to retract its path will leave a mess for our future generations to clean up – why be part of the problem?

Mahalo for this opportunity to state my position. Aloha ‘aina. Ku Kia‘i Mauna.

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