2/21/2018

Aloha kakou Members of the Board of Regents:

My name is MeleLani Llanes and I live in Makakilo. I am here today to express my concerns about the future of Mauna Kea. I believe to the core of my na'au that Mauna Kea is one of the most sacred places on earth.

It sickens me to see how she has been desecrated time and time again in the name of "science". While I believe Polynesians are natural astronomers (Hokulea proved that point over this last worldwide voyage) that quest for knowledge was never at the expense of the sanctity of our island earth.

There area of concern I wish to express is The Mauna Kea World Park.

While I believe in Hawaii as beacon of peace and inclusive place of learning for the world, I am terrified at the thought of Mauna Kea being used for that purpose. Just hearing the words "World Park" conjure up pictures of crowds with possibly a genuine interest in astronomy but with a total disregard for the sacredness of Mauna Kea. Her landscape has been littered with a plethora of telescopes already and I believe this world park would support the building of the Thirty meter telescope which I vehemently oppose.

I am not aware of how the native Hawaiians living a kuleana of protecting Mauna Kea fit into the picture. Will they be part of this plan and have a strong voice in determining the fate of Mauna Kea?

When I heard Mayor Kim speak at OHA I did not hear an answer to this question. He evaded the question about the Thirty Meter Telescope. I understand he feels genuinely concerned about the the welfare of the people in his district but using Mauna Kea for a profitable venture is wrong, period.

Mauna Kea is SACRED and desecrating even one more inch of her is unconscionable.

Mahalo for all your dedicated service and allowing me to voice my opinion today.

Malama pono,

MeleLani Llanes
Makakilo, Oahu, Hawai‘i
Aloha Chair Sullivan and Members of the Board,

I apologize for the late testimony, but I emailed Brandon and he encouraged me to reach out to the Regents regarding tomorrow's meeting. My name is Hannah Liebreich and I currently serve as Vice-President of the Graduate Student Organization at UH Mānoa. In regard to agenda items pertaining to Maunakea, specifically: 1. The reappointment of leadership to the Maunakea Management Board and 2. A resolution Requesting a Financial Management Audit of Maunakea Activities, I would like to present the GSO’s resolution, "In Support of Formalized Student Input in the University of Hawai‘i Decision-Making Regarding Mauna a Wakea," which was voted on and approved by our General Assembly on August 24th, 2017. The resolution calls for better transparency regarding decision making processes related to Maunakea. As a reminder, this issue has profound implications for many of our constituents, and as such we ask that any activities related to Maunakea be properly vetted. For details regarding our full resolution, please see the attachment below. On behalf of GSO, thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmest Regards,
Hannah Liebreich

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Hannah Liebreich
PhD Student, Sociology
Graduate Assistant, Department of Women's Studies
Vice President, Graduate Student Organization
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

GSO 2017 Mauna Kea Resolution.pdf
346K
In Support of Formalized Student Input in University of Hawai‘i’s Decision-Making Regarding Mauna a Wākea

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Graduate Student Organization (GSO) represents approximately 5,000 graduate students at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa; and

WHEREAS, Mauna a Wākea, or Mauna Kea on Hawai‘i island is a temple of the Hawaiian people and is a burial ground for the highest born ali‘i nui, or great chiefs, and is home to Native Hawaiian cultural studies; and

WHEREAS, The 4,200-meter high northern plateau of Mauna Kea is home to the world’s largest observatory of optical, infrared, and sub-millimeter astronomy; and

WHEREAS, Observatory construction and telescope use has had detrimental environmental effects on soil and water on Mauna Kea; and

WHEREAS, The 2000 Mauna Kea Science Reserve Master Plan, the Mauna Kea Comprehensive Master Plan, 2009 Cultural Resources Management and Natural Resources Management Plans, and the 2010 Public Access and Decommissioning Plans all stipulate plans and commitments to community and stakeholder input; and

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai‘i’s Board of Regents’ Policy RP 4.201 states that “the university is committed to social, cultural, environmental, and economic sustainability in operations; education, research and service; planning, administration, and engagement; and cultural and community connections”; and

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai‘i’s Board of Regents’ Policy RP 4.201 states that “the university embraces its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawai‘i,” and encourages “the increased representation of Native Hawaiians at the university” and supports the “full participations of Native Hawaiians in all initiatives and programs of the university”; and

2 https://www.hawaii.edu/policy/index.php?action=viewPolicy&policySection=rp&policyChapter=4&policyNumber=201&menuView=closed
3 https://www.hawaii.edu/policy/index.php?action=viewPolicy&policySection=rp&policyChapter=4&policyNumber=201&menuView=closed
WHEREAS, GSO constituents have voiced numerous cultural, environmental, and scientific concerns about the lack of student input in decision-making processes regarding university activities in relation to Mauna Kea; and

WHEREAS, GSO constituents have declared strong ancestral, cultural, environmental, and scientific ties to Mauna Kea; and

WHEREAS, The Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (ASUH) passed a resolution on November 6, 2013 urging a “greater dialogue with the students of the University of Hawai‘i in order to address the cultural, ecological and astronomical impact of the telescopes on Mauna Kea” and opposing the appropriation of student and state funds for the construction of new telescopes on Mauna Kea “without further input from stakeholders”; and

WHEREAS, There has since been no comprehensive plan executed by the University of Hawai‘i to engage student communities on all campuses in decisions about university activities concerning Mauna Kea; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED The Graduate Student Organization does not support decisions pertaining to the construction of a thirty-meter telescope on Mauna a Wākea made by the Board of Regents as a result of the lack of student representation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED The Graduate Student Organization supports a formalized process to engage student voices on all campuses in discussions about university involvement in Mauna Kea.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to:

Governor David Ige; David Lassner, President of the University of Hawai‘i System & Interim Mānoa Chancellor; the University of Hawai‘i’s Board of Regents’; Interim Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students Lori Ideta; Office of Mauna Kea Management Board Director Stephanie Nagata; Interim Dean of Hawai‘inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge Jonathan Osorio; Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa President Jannah Lyn Dela Cruz; University of Hawai‘i Student Caucus
Introduced by Taylor Lewis and Hannah Liebreich
Approved by the Graduate Student Organization General Assembly on August 24, 2017
Approves: 30
Opposes: 0
Abstentions: 5
We don't need a financial management audit, as proposed today. Instead, we need a forensic financial audit, which would go much further, to examine possible financial misconduct.

The audit should not be done by the UH Office of Internal Audit, as proposed today. Instead, it should be done by the State Office of Auditor, for a more objective view.

The audit should cover these entities:
- UH system
- Institute for Astronomy
- Research Corporation of UH
- Office of Mauna Kea Management, including tour permits and their revenues
- Mauna Kea observatories, including patents, commercial property, and intellectual rights
- Mauna Kea support services
- Visitor information station

The audit should cover these issues:
- the personal and financial costs of
  - injuries and deaths
  - lost natural and cultural resources
  - property damage from observatories
- lost opportunities from
  - not charging fair market rent
  - not allowing non-astronomy activities that could have generated revenue
  - not collecting fees on patents
  - not depositing revenue from all these into the State general fund
- resources used for
  - litigation for the Keck Outrigger, CMP, Thirty Meter Telescope, and General Lease Extension
  - sublease solicitation and negotiation
  - personnel and contractor costs
  - implementing the CMP
- contracts and professional services used for writing, implementing, and evaluating the CMP and for environmental impact studies since 2010
- expenditures and funding sources (like the research and training revolving fund) for UH activities on Mauna Kea
- any calculation by UH of the cost of implementing the 2009 Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and funding sources
- any fees UH has sought from lessees and permit holders to implement the CMP
- the negotiation process for subleases and permits—it should be a fair process that allows public input

Mahalo.
Aloha Board of Regents

Richard Ha <richard@hamakuasprings.com>  Fri, Feb 23, 2018 at 7:12 AM
To: BOR@hawaii.edu

Aloha Board of Regents

Re: Maunakea.

I am writing this as an individual who has been closely involved in the TMT issue. I also happen to be a PUEO board member. PUEO was the only native Hawaiian entity that participated in the TMT contested case hearing in support of the TMT.

I was one of the three original TMT committee members of the Hawaii Island Economic Development Board (HIEDB) ten years or so ago.

To me the problem stems from an inadequate accommodation of the Hawaiian culture. The observatories are like little temples. Where is the Hawaiian temple?

The problem is showing itself when the Mauna Kea Support Services is expected to perform its mission on an inadequate amount of land. Since, the Saddle Road was redone, there are more and more people going to the summit. There are 300 or so visitors every evening. Star gazing has been curtailed due to safety reasons. Sales of souvenirs exceed $1 million annually. Something has to give.

It does not matter which entity, UH or a new Management Authority, takes over. What matters is control of the land on which a cultural center above the clouds can go. Right now, DLNR controls the area west and adjacent to Hale Pohaku. UH does not have control of enough land to separate the visitor issues from the hard core mission of the Maunakea Support Services. The people who work at the Maunakea Support Services are doing a good job with the resources that they are given. It's a systemic problem, that can only be solved when people recognize the problem. Trying to squeeze an inadequate culture center on the tiny property is not solving the problem. The IFA is responsible for figuring this out. I don't see that they "get it". From that stand point I support moving the IFA to the Big Island.

I support the good work that OMKM has done over the years. However, they to need to think past the Hale Pohaku footprint. It's not adequate for the next fifty years.

I support an audit, not because I think it's necessary, but because people need a common frame of reference of understanding where the money goes and what is real money and what is not. Building the facility takes real money, trading telescope time is not. I may be wrong, but I don't think that the audit will turn out like OHA's recent audit. OHA should not have anything to do with managing Maunakea, except collecting their 20%.

As Hawaiian language proliferates, year after year, the pressure will inevitably build.

The Hawaiian race is diluting rapidly. My grandma was pure Hawaiian. Two generations later, I am quarter Hawaiian. What will we look like and who will people of 1/64 Hawaiian associate themselves with? We need a place where we will not be forgotten.

Soon we will be flying into space. Will Hawaiians have a place in the discussion? Not, if we do not have a place above the clouds with the observatories.

I think the cultural center above the clouds can be the place where the generations of Hawaiian language school graduates can associate themselves positively with.

The cultural center can separate the support services mission from the cultural. This is a huge safety issue.

It can be the place where the UH Hawaiian language school can send graduates to educate.

We do not have to reinvent the wheel. Imiloa understands how this can work- Imiloa Mauka, Imiloa Makai.

People have to go to the 9,000 ft level to acclimate anyway. We could locate the cultural center to get a western look toward the sunset. From there the traffic to the summit can be controlled by charging more. If we do that, the cultural center becomes more sustainable.

Hawaiian craft people can sell their stuff to tourist. We don't have to buy as much stuff from outside the state to sell to tourist.

Right now, we generate $1 million annually without trying. Imagine if we tried.
I don’t think it’s fair to put everything on UH. This is a whole state issue. How about the rich people who live in Hawaii. I’m sure they would contribute to a cultural center above the clouds. This is a world issue, rich people in the world would see the value of a cultural center above the clouds.

I Mahalo Sen Kahele for bringing the issue forward. I don’t think anyone else could have done what he did.

In pre contact days, we lived in a “gift economy”. The more one gave, the more one received. Anyone traveling on the Kings trail around the island knew he/she would be welcomed if they needed shelter. Then, it became the “market economy”. The more one took, the more one received. This is the big disconnect that exists today.

Hawaiians are known for sustainability and the spirit of Aloha. This is the moral authority that the cultural center above the clouds would represent. This is the value that our whole world needs more of. And, this is what we should take with us when we go exploring again.

Build the cultural center above the clouds and everything else will fall into place

Aloha
Richard Ha

Richard Ha
Cell: (808)960-1057
PO Box 107
Pepe’ekeo, Hawai‘i 96783