Dear UH Board of Regents,

I heartily support the building of the TMT on Mauna Kea, as well supporting the other telescopes at the summit. Aside from being the best site in the world for astronomy, due to it's elevation and clear, unpolluted skies, it helps preserve the love of the stars that enabled the Tahitians to navigate their way to the Islands.

Without astronomy, there would be no Hawaiians.

Hāʻawi i nā hōkū i nā kānaka.

Sincerely,

Ralph LeVitt
Volcano, HI
In support of a resolution recognizing that enforcement of law on Mauna Kea is necessary

manifestaloha@yahoo.com <manifestaloha@yahoo.com>  
To: "bor.testimony@hawaii.edu" <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>  

Aloha

I was raised in Hawaii and now reside on the Big Island. I am a teacher and almost every week I buy supplies for my students. TMT is one way to alleviate this and help our local kids succeed, as well as lead to discoveries which will benefit all mankind. Again, TMT has passed every legal hurdle to permit construction. I urge you to pass a resolution explaining that lawful arrests, such as those that happened at the beginning of these protests, are not inherently violent and that enforcement of the law through police action is a bedrock requirement of a functioning society. Protestors continue to block the road for their religion and every other Hawaiian grievance. Stopping TMT will not solve any of those problems, but allowing construction to continue safely just might. I feel shame to go up there. Enforce the law.

Mahalo
Katherine Roseguo

Please - remember, reduce, reuse, recycle, renew, refresh, recover, restore, respect, refuse, reintegrate, rethink, revitalize, replant, replanet, regreen, refurbish, regrow, rot.
I’m hopeful we can find parallel paths to success in supporting Hawaiian culture and operating the Thirty Meter Telescope in Hawaii.

My wife and I have lived on Maui 24 years. What keeps us here is the lasting and positive influence of the Hawaiian people on us and the community. We’ve traveled widely, and there are few places in the world where an endemic culture has been so welcoming, so pertinent and important to daily life for all. It’s an ongoing blessing for all of us to learn from Hawaiians.

I was a science teacher at Baldwin High School on Maui for 17 years and taught 3000 or more students—Hawaiian, Haole, Filipino, Japanese, Portuguese, and many mixes of these. In my classroom lessons, I was very careful to share lessons in ways that were parallel to Hawaiian teachings, both in content and method. A native of Chicago, I was unqualified to teach Hawaiian culture and felt that the Hawaiian kupuna were much better for that responsibility, through their knowledge, passion, patience, mana, and ability to nurture the next generations. But I took pride in finding ways to parallel Hawaiian teaching and culture with my own science lessons. Many, many students and families have thanked me for my approach.

Before teaching, I had been a corporate engineer for 19 years, with 200 scientists and engineers reporting to me. Developing the next generations of young technical people became a calling for me and brought me to Maui. While on Maui, I’ve helped lots of youngsters gravitate toward the sciences.

Losing our local talent to the Mainland is a huge drain on our resources and a personal tragedy for me. I work with local tech businesses to help hire and train Hawaii-born workers, who know how to live and thrive here. Years ago, I attended a community hearing regarding a telescope for Haleakala on Maui. A well-meaning, silver-haired Haole woman stood and said, “Jobs jobs jobs! They are lying to us. These telescope people will bring in their own people from the Mainland and overseas, and our kids won’t get the jobs! Our Hawaii kids don’t know how to do this difficult work!” She was actually weeping. I wanted to climb over the table and smack her, wake her up. Yes, our local kids can and will do the work, and our tech companies would prefer to hire them, rather than train outsiders to work in Hawaii for 2-3 years before returning to their own homelands. We can, we will train brilliant students of Hawaii to work here, and technical people of all levels to work alongside them. This is what I devoted 17 years of my own life to support, and I am absolutely not alone.

At this point, many Hawaiians are gathered to oppose building TMT on Mauna Kea. I see many loving faces, people I know well, among the participants. Part of me rejoices to see native Hawaiians coming together, sharing their spirit, uniting as one. It is difficult to apply the Hawaiian teachings of antiquity to a confused new world. But I feel their pride, their joy, their mana in uniting behind a cause.

For me, though, this is a bitter, bitter development and my heart is bruised by the irony that a telescope is the focus of so much cultural upheaval. Perhaps University of Hawaii could have been a better steward of the mountain environment, I truly do not know. What promises were made in the past, and kept or broken, can surely be researched and discussed. From what I know, though, the TMT project has attempted to treat its mountain site with respect, and has tried to be open in negotiating, in good faith, to do what is pono.

I have taken native Hawaiian students to the top of Haleakala to use its telescopes, and these students enhanced the experience of our entire group. One Hawaiian boy, late in the evening, took off his shirt and lay on his back, surrounded by telescopes, feeling the earth beneath him through his skin and absorbing the stars above. He was connecting with many generations, and I was honored to help him find his way there.

So, here we are. We are at an absolutely unique time in terms of opportunity, to find parallel paths to help Hawaiians connect to their culture and to attract locally-grown talent towards astronomy careers in their own homeland. We must stop accepting the norm of losing our bright youngsters to Seattle, to Silicon Valley, to Wall Street, when we could be helping them use the marvelous TMT telescope to explore, and perhaps challenge or even replace our deepest and most fundamental knowledge of the cosmos, right from Hawaii. I cannot imagine a more rewarding time to work together, honoring and rescuing the past, and preparing the way for educational prosperity for generations to come.

Background:
Graham DeVey was a physical science teacher at Baldwin High School on Maui for 17 years. While at Baldwin, he launched an Astronomy initiative, advised Future Scientists and Engineers of America, and served as science department resource teacher. He personally petitioned state legislature for $1.3 million to build Baldwin’s science wing, completed in 2006.

Graham holds a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautical Science from Northwestern University and an MA Teaching (Physics) degree from State University of New York.

Prior to teaching, he was a Navy Patrol Plane Commander for six years, and an engineering executive with Carrier Corporation for 19 years, including ten years overseas developing and managing product design centers. He recently retired after five years as program manager for Women In Technology.

Mr. DeVey has been appointed to Mu Alpha Theta and to Sigma Pi Sigma, national fraternities for Mechanical Engineering and Physics, respectively. He holds a Professional Engineering License and a Commercial Pilot’s license.

Graham DeVey, 24 Kilolani Lane APT 103, Kihei HI
808-740-4290 kulakidz@gmail.com
Aloha UH Board of Regents,

I urge you not to support Resolution 19-02. The ongoing TMT protestors are illegally blocking access to the Mauna. These protestors have been unequivocal in their position that the TMT won't be constructed on Mauna Kea. Mediation won't change their minds, as they won't negotiate unless the TMT leaves.

The Thirty Meter Telescope underwent a 10 year permitting and judicial process, which their permits were granted and upheld by the courts. If the TMT is forced to relocate, this will have negative implications for future investment in Hawaii. Why would anyone want to build any projects here if the state, and county, can't maintain lawful access to Maunakea.

Sincerely,
Aaron Stene

Aaron Stene
aaron@aaronstene.net
808-333-0996
In support of astronomy

Heather Galinato <keahilani@me.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Sat, Oct 12, 2019 at 2:32 PM

Aloha!

I have been a big island resident since the 1980's, and I'm writing in support of astronomy, and especially in support of a TMT build.

While I understand that the Hawaiian people have many issues with the state regarding trust lands, the Hawai'i Supreme Court has upheld TMT's legal right to build the 30 Meter telescope. The issue with DHHL and the beneficiaries that don't receive land is a separate issue. The TMT consortium has acted in good faith many times with Hawaiian blooded residents concerning respecting their right to cultural practice, and the astronomy complex has made many compromises to appease this demographic. The people blocking construction continue to break many laws to withhold the rights of the TMT.

As a resident of the islands, and a parent of Hawaiian children who are taxed to pay for the on-going protests, I respectfully ask that you open the road for construction, and encourage those unhappy with state trusteeship to pursue viable solutions in this case.

This has hurt everyone here, pro-TMT Hawaiians the most. Banishing the TMT through continued criminality by misguided people will damage the relationship the state has with its residents, and those who may wish to invest in the state in the future.

Please encourage the state lawmakers to follow the law, and as a university, continue to support and invest in astronomy's future.

Mahalo-

Heather Galinato
Aloha UH Board of Regents,

This a letter, a submission of testimony for the UH BOR.

I am pleased you are trying your best to find a way to remedy the situation on Maunakea.

Far too much time has passed; our elected leaders, the government Hawaii failed us thus it becomes your kuleana. As an alumni of UHM I am heartened by your resolve. I can appreciate UH allows and supports all voices, a state university is a place where young people should be able to experience critical thinking and learn how to voice an opinion. Students must learn that words matter and actions begin a chain events that can be destructive or constructive.

I am native Hawaiian, living outside the 50th State. I have always been proud of my roots but lately I am appalled to see what is taking place at my alma mater. The professors from the Hawaiian and Ethnic Studies departments are encouraging their students to protest astronomy, physics. These professors use their position and class time to foment dissatisfaction about the State of Hawaii; clearly a conflict of interest and on the tax payers wallet. Professor Williamson B.C. Chang of the law school has led people to believe the kingdom of Hawaii is around the corner if they protest TMT, and all their socio economic woes will end when the kingdom returns. We all know this is impossible but this kind of thinking has reached cult status and led to rejection of fact and law.

The claims of "genocide, ethnocide, take over, land grab, invasion, occupation" have reached a fever pitch and have led to virulent hatred for science, non-Hawaiians, Hawaiians who support TMT. Death threats, threats of violence, vile language fill the comments on social media. Marches, with flags that have no relation to Hawaii are a demonstration of dissatisfaction and self righteous anger.

I support astronomy, TMT on Maunakea. I am native Hawaiian and was able to take the earliest courses of Hawaiian studies and language at UHM in the '70s. I never dreamed it would lead Hawaii to the brink of ruin.

I am older than astronomy on Maunakea. I have traveled and lived all over the world and I think Hawaii is still one of the best places to live because of the culture that grew between all the different communities. But we struggle with careers, jobs and standard of living because we are reliant on tourism, construction, and the military. We could build a better economy for all of us, one that would lift many of us out of serving drinks, driving taxis, being shop
clerks. We need more education, not in law, not in social science fields but in STEM fields because STEM is the present and the future.

You must support astronomy and physics. We have astronomy and physics graduate students hoping to observe with TMT and work with the giants like NASA, CalTech, MIT and more. Obviously TMT has been helpful with scholarships, internships and jobs. Sadly, the protesters can't offer these graduate students anything on that level.

We all know astronomy and tech is part of the old Hawaiian culture and the evolving Hawaiian culture. We have imaged Powehi, been part of the 'Oumuamua study, researched black holes and dark matter. We do phenomenal astronomy and Hawaii has come too far in these fields to stop now. The UH BOR Malama Maunakea Resolution and later commitments to the cultural center have been largely ignored by the UH professors who stand with the people blocking the road. It’s unfortunate but that’s what it is.

Please stand with higher education that will lead to a better life for Hawaii, a life no longer dependent of the carbon footprint of tourism. I’m sure the military will never leave but we can't really help that. We need to find ways to save our oceans, we need STEM education and careers and because we’re broke Hawaii needs TMT. Please continue to support TMT and astronomy on Maunakea.

Mahalo for reading my testimony. ImuaTMT

Veronica Ohara
Aloha,
My name is Kathleen Medeiros and I support the TMT. My father was an employee of Lockheed and transferred my whole family to Haleakala on the beautiful island of Maui back in 1969. As the telescopes, worldwide, continue to make fascinating discoveries of our solar system they also provide important military support. It would be a HUGE mistake to lose this valuable asset. Please, please do not allow this opportunity to slip through our fingers. We will be the biggest losers if this telescope is not built.

Mahalo for hearing me,

Kathleen "Cookie" Medeiros
Testimony for TMT

1 message

Rick Faulkner <faulknerastronomy@yahoo.com.au>  Sat, Oct 12, 2019 at 6:26 PM
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Dear Board of Regents members,

Thank you for all you have done in support of students of astronomy, & astrophysics, at the University of Hawaii thus far.

I am one of many thousands of international astronomy fans who support the building of TMT on Mauna Kea, as it is the best site for the doing the cutting edge science of TMT, by a long way, with not only dryer atmosphere & higher elevation than Canary Islands, but also many more clear nights annually.

In July, 2019, the world celebrated 50 years since Apollo 11 landed on the moon, & during one single weekend, in July, 2019, the Parkes Radio telescope, which sent the television pictures around the world, in 1969, saw over 6,000 visitors from all over Australia and the world.

Human space flight, and astronomy are both gaining huge public support once more, thanks to NASA's Artemis program, & SpaceX, & the next generation of huge astronomy projects, with 10 times the resolution of the Hubble Space telescope, this will be a wonderful new golden age for astronomy, & Hawaii can stay a world leader in this field, with TMT. The many untold discoveries that await cannot be undervalued in how they will inspire the next generation of astronomy fans all over the globe, & inspire hundreds more to pursue careers in STEM fields, as just one more example of why this is a brilliant idea for humanity, let alone the Hawaiian people.

The tourist value TMT will bring to Hawaii will be many millions of dollars annually. My wife and I look forward to visiting the beautiful Hawaiian islands for several weeks, once TMT reaches first light, & sooner this is, the better for Hawaii and the world of astronomy & science in general will benefit.

To be clear, I firmly believe that the world’s best large science projects such as TMT, The Hubble Space Telescope, & JWST, have the power to lift up the human spirit, in the young and old across our good Earth.

Kindest regards and thanks for reading this.

Best wishes and Mahalo,

Richard Faulkner.

Sydney, Australia AU

Sent from my iPhone
Resolution 19-02

1 message

Bernie Walp <bernie@well.com>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Ladies and gentlemen of the Board of Regents:

One can have no doubt that you are all very good, well-meaning people. Your resolution underscores what good, well-meaning people you are. You oppose violence and support respect. How good and well-meaning of a board to pass a resolution like that.

May I offer two observations:

1) Nothing in the resolution addresses the illegal and unlawful obstruction of a public road. But perhaps that is not the topic at hand. I look forward to your taking up the issue one day in the near future.

2) The third paragraph is incorrect. In public discourse and public law we do not make "individual judgments of right and wrong". In a democracy we do that collectively.

Congratulations on your goodness and well-meaningness.

Sincerely,
P.B. Walp
Hilo
WHEREAS there has been 10 years of open public hearings and testimony,

WHEREAS the Supreme Court ruled 4-1 in favor of the permit,

WHEREAS no one is above the law,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents urge immediate construction of the TMT and an end to the standoff. We can then move on to real issues that affect Native Hawaiians and all of us who live in this state and work for this University.

Jonathan Williams
Kaneohe, HI
My Testimony for the October 17, 2019 Resolution Vote

1 message

Kenneth Wagner <poiboy1964@hawaiiantel.net>  To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu
Mon, Oct 14, 2019 at 11:14 PM

My Testimony for the UH Board of Regents Resolution “Urging De-escalation of Tension and Non-violent Solutions on Maunakea”

I am unsure why you, the UH Board of Regents are considering this resolution for de-escalating the tension on Maunakea as only the protectors are there blocking the Mauna Kea Access Road. So where is the tension and who are the affected parties?

I am of Native Hawaiian descent. I am a resident of the state of Hawaii. I am a citizen of the United States of America. Yet, I am unable to visit the summit of Maunakea or even the visitor's center. My rights as a U.S. citizen are being denied by the lawlessness going on, on the mountain.

1st Item – There needs to be a correction to “Maunakea holds a special and important place in the history, culture, and hearts of SOME of the peoples of Native Hawaiian ancestry SOME of Hawaii. I do not hold Maunakea as a sacred place and attempting to impose someone's religious beliefs upon me is inappropriate and violates the Constitution.

2nd Item – I’m sorry but why should I practice Kapu Aloha when I have not seen it in practice by the protectors on Mauankea? Blocking the road and preventing the Thirty Meter Telescope from commencing construction is not Kapu Aloha but ‘A’ole Aloha. The protectors on the mountain are law breakers and these criminals are not practicing Kapu Aloha.

3rd Item – Whether or not we are making judgments is irrelevant. The Hawaii Supreme Court has already passed judgement on the TMT project. It is time to move the process forward or risk making a mockery of our laws and justice system.

4th Item – Like I said earlier, the protestors are the only ones on Maunakea besides the police. There are no TMT supporters at Pu’u Huluhulu so there is no chance of violence. If you believe there is potential for violence between the protectors and police, you should be speaking with those parties instead of insinuating those who support TMT might possibly instigate violence.

5th Item – How about the employees in the University of Hawaii system follow the law (HRS 5-75 “Aloha Spirit”) since the protectors are violating the law (HRS 711-1105 “Obstructing”).

6th Item – This paragraph should be deleted as it has nothing to do with the conflict on Maunakea other than trying to tie Professor Learned to the TMT project.

7th Item – As you, UH Board of Regents should know by now; the protectors will NOT compromise on TMT whatsoever. The protectors have stated, from the beginning of the protest, they will NOT agree to any resolution that includes the building of TMT. The time for negotiation is over. Perhaps dialogue can continue once the road is open but first, the rule of law must be followed.

8th Item – Again, like I remarked previously, only the protectors are on Maunakea so the potential for violence is minimal. If the protectors are practicing Kapu Aloha, the arrests for obstructing Mauna Kea Access Road will be non-violent.

9th Item – This is a positive statement that will hopefully be implemented throughout the University of Hawaii system. Also, you may want to revisit your August 24, 2017 “Resolution Affirming Commitment to the Collaborative Stewardship of Maunakea's Cultural, Natural, Educational and Scientific Resources” to confirm it was successfully implemented.

Mālama Pono,

Kenneth Wagner
Honolulu, Hawai‘i
Testimony regarding Resolution 19-02
1 message

Roy Gal <roygal@hawaii.edu>
To: bor.testimony@hawaii.edu

Aloha Board of Regents,

I am writing regarding Resolution 19-02 on Maunakea. I am an astronomer and the outreach coordinator at the UH Institute for Astronomy. I have been in Hawai‘i for 12 years, but started using the Maunakea Observatories in 1995. While I defend the rights of those opposed to TMT to express their views, it is simply not socially responsible to allow them to continue to illegally block the access road, spread complete falsehoods about the TMT and astronomy, and mischaracterize the recent history of Maunakea.

The current observatories’ operations are seriously impacted, and a project with a right to proceed - after over a decade of meetings and hearings - is unable to do so. Now we see the same type of action used at Shewrwoods, at the Kahuku wind farm, and I am sure we will see it everywhere.

If you adopt this resolution, you are committing UH to opposing legal police action to stop the illegal blockade. The TMT opponents have repeatedly, vigorously stated “NO COMPROMISE” - that they will NOT allow TMT to be built. So what will any sort of ho‘oponopono achieve? And after they stop TMT, they have made it clear that their next goal is to eliminate all of astronomy on Maunakea. That would be a global disaster. Maunakea observatories are responsible for almost HALF of all ground-based astronomy IN THE ENTIRE WORLD. The observatory community includes USA, Japan, Canada, France, Argentina, Korea, China, Brazil, and Chile. TMT would add India to this list - and these countries account for half of the world’s population. Are we prepared to bid a fond aloha to all of this?

Furthermore, if astronomy is allowed to die here, UH will lose the IfA, one of its most prestigious assets. The state will lose all of the outreach, education, jobs, and economic benefits. Nobody will want to develop any modern research, engineering, or business here. Continuing down this path will force even higher dependence on tourism and the military, both of which are environmentally devastating and not sustainable.

I urge you all to consider the broader impacts of this resolution and therefore vote against it, even though it might sound good to support it. It is time for UH to come out in strong support of science, progress, and a forward-looking future for Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your consideration, and please feel free to contact me any time for more about what the astronomy community does here in research, outreach, and education.

Dr. Roy R. Gal
rgal@ifa.hawaii.edu
Associate Astronomer/Outreach Coordinator/UH NGO
University of Hawai‘i - Manoa
Institute for Astronomy
2680 Woodlawn Dr.
Honolulu, HI 96822
808-956-6235
Re: BoR Resolution 19-02

Christoph Baranec <baranec@hawaii.edu>  Tue, Oct 15, 2019 at 6:42 PM

Dear University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents:

From: Christoph Baranec, 15 October 2019

Hawaii and the University are, and represent, a diverse set of backgrounds, cultures, ethnicities and points-of-view. Our democracy relies on our collective legal framework – decisions should not be based on the political or religious views of a single group. De-escalation of Tension and Non-Violent Solutions on Maunakea rests solely with the protestors blockading legal access to the summit of Maunakea via the access road. There have been documented death threats and intimidation by the protestors against students, University of Hawaii staff at UHM and UHH, members of the Maunakea astronomy community, law enforcement, and law makers in our state. The operations of the current observatories have been severely impacted and even now we are forced to use off-road access. Many hard working residents in my community have lost their jobs because tour companies can no longer access the summit. UH should be demanding that the access road be opened.

This document says nothing about supporting TMT, and astronomy in Hawaii in general. TMT has gone through the legal process, and the protestors had their time in court, and it is time to proceed. The protestors of the project have also declared a desire to go after all of the telescopes. This will devastate UH, the Hawaii Island economy, astronomical research worldwide, and the ability to do anything innovative in Hawaii. Our University must stand up for facts. The TMT opposition is full of outright lies and misrepresentations - about the project, UH management, and even Hawaiian history and culture. The commitment to civility and respect starts with the protestors removing their blockade.

Mahalo no kou manawa,
Christoph Baranec
Associate Astronomer, Institute for Astronomy
Board of Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Research, 2017
Resident of Hilo, Hawaii

Christoph Baranec
http://high-res.org
Aloha UH Board of Regents,
While appreciate the intent behind the resolution, I do not see how it will accomplish anything other than being an exercise in futility. The TMT opponents have expressed time and time again that they have no interest in compromising their stance on never seeing the TMT being built in Hawaii.

No amount of discussion, ho'opononopono, good faith efforts will change the opposition's mind. When compromise is not a solution, hard decisions must be made by our elected officials. In regards to TMT, the hard decisions are to enforce existing laws, respect the process that TMT has legally followed and open the road and let construction commence.

No amount of resolutions, no matter how good they make the authors (or you for voting in favor of it) will do anything other than waste everyone's time.

As a Hawaii taxpayer, I have had enough of the state allowing a select group of people to be above the law and determine Hawaii's future. Please end the madness!

--

Yvonne S. Taylor
yvonnesteensontaylor@gmail.com
808-315-1696
77-205 Hookaana Street
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740
Testimony regarding Resolution 19-02

Sam King <kingsam2@gmail.com>  
To: BOR Testimony <bor.testimony@hawaii.edu>  
Tue, Oct 15, 2019 at 9:30 PM

Aloha Board of Regents,

I understand you are voting on a resolution concerning de-escalation of tensions on Mauna Kea. Please include in your resolution a condemnation of the continued threats and bullying by protesters.


Please also condemn any pressure by UH faculty on their students to conform to the protesters' narrative.

Your resolution is right to request non-violent solutions. However, your resolution must include recognition that the Kabuki-theater style arrests earlier this year were not violent and such arrests should not be considered violent. To condemn legal police action as violence is to condemn our society to lawlessness and anarchy. It would be heinously irresponsible for you to support such a position that puts all of our families at risk.

Mahalo,

Samuel Wilder King II
Aloha,

I am a UH Manoa graduate student at the Institute for Astronomy. I am writing to you about the Resolution Urging De-escalation of Tension and Non-violent Solutions on Maunakea. While I appreciate wanting to come to a peaceful agreement to resolve the issues on the mauna, I do not see this as a possibility. Here are several reasons I believe that arrests need to be made and why this cannot be resolved peacefully:

1) Recently I was a witness to a message where a man threatened to strap a bomb to himself to blow up the capitol building and pay money to people to blow up machines all because he does not want the TMT. It was an unsolicited message and was aimed at a UH student for sharing information about a pro-TMT rally in Hilo. This message was sent to the police and is now an active FBI investigation. The screenshots were shared on the Instagram @kapu_aloha_ole: https://www.instagram.com/p/B3pj_BXDmOt/?igshid=1inmpp23td174. This is obviously not a peaceful act and as you can see from the same Instagram page and from Governor Ige's press conference in September, there are many similar threats. We cannot sit by and hope that some dialog will help resolve this issue. It is only a matter of time before people start acting on these threats, and it would be terrible to know that the university did nothing, in an attempt to try and do things more peacefully. It is clear that the protest is no longer peaceful and should not be treated as such. This is having an immense effect stifling the voice of people who support the TMT making it seem like they are non-existent. If nothing forceful is done soon, someone innocent could get hurt.

2) We have had over ten years for dialog. The protesters have made it clear that nothing can be resolved unless the TMT leaves. This is not an option as it has gone through the proper legal process and will have numerous positive impacts on the community and particularly the University. The only compromise they're willing to consider is one without TMT. Do you want to be at fault for losing the TMT and subsequently the entire astronomy community in Hawaii? If TMT is forced out, the rest of the telescopes are directly impacted as it will be difficult to renew the lease of the land for the telescopes. Hawaii would suffer greatly without this industry and the astronomy community across the world would never be the same.

3) There are obviously MANY issues that are not related to the TMT. It is important to clear the road NOW with the means necessary and THEN have dialog to resolve these issues. The TMT is being held hostage and the dialog surrounding these issues could take years to resolve. We cannot afford that time to come to agreements. The protesters are using TMT as a means to get other things, so why not just discuss those other things while letting TMT build. The TMT will not wait forever.

4) Showing that we want to peacefully resolve this issue is making a statement that any illegal activity is supported and that there will be no consequences for actions. More protests against things that are good for our community will start happening (as already apparent with the wind turbines project). And protests will spread across the country as we now see a protest by students from Stanford who are protesting the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation who have helped in many ways in technology, the environment, and medical fields.

In your resolution you bring up the importance of Maunakea to Native Hawaiians and the culture and history but you fail to mention the importance it has on the astronomy industry. Nothing brings us closer to the Heavens or relates back to Hawaiian roots more than astronomy. For many astronomers the telescopes are a sort of temple that allow us to understand our origins and learn about fundamental physics that govern the world we live in. Some of these observations even have practical impacts such as the internet, cameras, and medical applications! The work done on Maunakea has SIGNIFICANTLY impacted our current understandings and Maunakea is a gift to humanity to allow us to see the Heavens in such a way. The Native Hawaiians used the mountain for the adze quarry, it is necessary to allow use of Maunakea in this peaceful way. TMT has done everything right to respect the Native Hawaiian culture, there is plenty of room on the mountain to coexist with science and culture.

The resolution also brings up the remarks of a single UH professor however nothing is mentioned about the continuous threats students are receiving for supporting the telescope. These threats have not been reprimanded in any way, nor have people apologized for it. This professor does not represent the voice of anyone who supports the telescope yet the resolution seems to make it sound like that is the viewpoint of all TMT supporters. There is clearly a disconnect from the Board reaching out to the astronomy community and hearing our voices.

I will close by saying that there needs to be action to stop this protest now. While I support peaceful protests and peaceful resolutions, the situation in its current form will no longer succeed without some force. If the University does not take a stand against these threats, bullying, and outrageous acts (such as bomb threats) against those that support, then I'm afraid after I graduate I will not be willing to support the University in any way. I looked forward to holding my PhD in astronomy from UH, but the way the University has responded to this protest has altered my opinion. I hope that you will take this testimony seriously, and really weigh what this resolution may say.
Laurie Chu  
Ph.D. Candidate  
Institute for Astronomy, University of Hawaii at Manoa  

Institute for Astronomy  
640 North A'ohoku Place, #209  
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Office: B-102