



BOR Testimony <bortest2@hawaii.edu>

Imua TMT

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Sun, Jan 12, 2020 at 1:44 PM

Dear BOR,

Please consider the FACTS of this situation and know that the majority of all people in this state support moving forward with this project: I am a 6th grade teacher = 21 yrs. Four generations of my family have lived here and born here. All the teachers I work with support this project. On the Big Island – there are so few opportunities beyond servicing the mega-rich and hotels. I have followed this situation for over 10 years – I've been open to the opposition and glad it went back to the courts – but now, everything has been done to make sure it is in a safe location and does not disrupt and sites that are used for rituals, etc. (Poli'ahu, etc.). I feel like the loss of this project will push away other opportunities to develop tech industries on the Big Island that could bring so much positive job and career options for our youth – and their opportunities to stay here and work in alternative industries that are clean. We have clean ocean, reefs, and shoreline access to contend with.

Facts:

1. Everyone supports preserving Mauna Kea and believes it is special
2. Everyone supports perpetuating Hawaiian culture
3. Everyone (almost) agrees that the state has mismanaged the Mauna (amongst many other things)
4. Harry Kim and many other groups have tried to work out dialog and further compromise. It's like they want to "throw the baby out with the bathwater."
5. A majority of people – including those with Hawaiian ethnicity, support it.
6. The protesters are breaking the law and unwilling to discuss options – uncompromising after all due process was completed over 10 years!
7. Many of the protesters are hostile and are using this as an opportunity for protesting other issues. The issues need to be sorted out.
8. Almost everyone I know supports this project – but we all work all day and have many responsibilities to be able to spend as much time as so many protesters on this issue – don't they work??
9. Supporters look to our government and laws and have faith in the process but now – it looks like anarchy can rule if the social media takes control.

There is so much misinformation out there. So much of the protesters' actions and behaviors are not even connected to authentic cultural practices and seem to be concocted along the way to inspire sensationalistic and emotional marketing appeal. Using negativity and personal attacks on people of Hawaiian ethnicity that they are betraying their culture, etc. lots of "low blow" attacks that have nothing to do with the merits and facts of the law and the project. Let's get the cultural facts straight!! The Kapu system was abolished a long time ago. The Haka is NOT Hawaiian, random Ahu's are NOT sacred, documentation of what actually happened culturally up there prior to the last 10 years has not been disclosed. I'm sure many of the protesters were up there piling snow in their trucks and sliding down the hills over the years.

Think of the future of our keiki – 10-20 years from now!! The follow through - or loss of the project could determine a lot regarding the opportunities that they will have in order to be able to stay here and work. Do we have laws anymore?? That's what scares a lot of citizens. The big picture needs to be considered. The LAW needs to be followed.

Thank you

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