



Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

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## Testimony for Thursday's BOR meeting

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**Mahealani Cypher** <malama pono744@aim.com>

Tue, Apr 14, 2015 at 7:35 PM

To: bor@hawaii.edu

Aloha,

Attached are two letters we are submitting as testimony for this week's BOR meeting.

The letter regarding Mauna kea would apply to the "Public Comment" section of the agenda, unless the BOR is handling it elsewhere.

The second letter refers to specific items on the agenda under Section VIII.

Please forward these to Chair Moore and the Regents.

Mahalo nui,

Mahealani Cypher  
(for) Alice Hewett  
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club

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### 2 attachments



**UH Regents-support-maunakea.pdf**

144K



**bor-moku o loe-support.docx**

39K



# KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

April 14, 2015

Randolph G. Moore, Chair  
Board of Regents  
University of Hawai'i  
2444 Dole Street  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Re: TMT Project on Mauna Kea: Moving Forward in a Culturally Respectful Way

Aloha Chair Moore:

On behalf of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club, I ask your reconsideration of the University of Hawai'i's position on the current proposed plan for construction of a 30-meter telescope atop Mauna Kea on Moku o Keawe, Hawai'i island.

Because we realize that the lead cultural response on this matter should come from the people of Moku o Keawe, we have consulted with members of the Hawai'i Island Council-Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. We have also consulted with Dr. Trisha Kehaulani Watson, a Native Hawaiian environmental attorney who is also very knowledgeable about cultural issues and the law.

Our suggestions, for your consideration, include the following:

- 1) That the University of Hawai'i reopen the EIS comment process for this project to allow for additional input from the public, particularly the Hawaiian community, many of whose voices had not been heard before on this issue;
- 2) That the University of Hawai'i, in consultation with the developers of the TMT, relocate the facility to the site of existing telescopes which have been decommissioned or will be closed, using the same footprint and avoiding disturbance of any new areas atop Mauna Kea.
- 3) That the University of Hawai'i, if possible, increase the annual lease rental for use of the lands at Mauna Kea to \$100,000 per year – or whatever reasonable fee can be established fairly depending on the value of the new facility – and that these fees be deposited into a special fund that shall be created to support preservation and/or restoration of Native Hawaiian cultural resources on Mauna Kea. Management of this fund can be assigned to a new entity similar to the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission.

Chair Randolph Moore  
April 14, 2015  
Page 2

4) That the University of Hawai`i revise the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the project to be more responsive to and respectful of concerns raised by the people of Moku o Keawe.

5) That the University of Hawai`i consider returning the entire mountain top of Mauna Kea – lands held by the State – to a Native Hawaiian entity such as a Mauna Kea Reserve Commission, which can then weigh in on possible changes to the proposed project and necessary mitigations.

We know that the entire issue is much more complicated than most people realize. We also know that our suggestions may be too simplistic and may even appear unworkable, in light of the complexity of the permitting process and the weight that must be given to financial damages that may be incurred by the State if the TMT project is unable to move forward.

However, we have called upon our Aumakua, our kupuna and Akua to guide us in our deliberations on this matter, and have voted to support the Hawai`i Island Council-AHCC on the matter of the future of Mauna Kea and the TMT project.

Mahalo for your consideration of our suggestions.

Should you have any questions or need more information, please contact our Government Relations Committee co-chairs Mahealani Cypher (ph. (808) 226-4195) or Leialoha Kaluhiwa (ph. (808) 286-7955).

We wish you all the best in your efforts to resolve this complex and serious matter.

Me kealoha pumehana,



ALICE P. HEWETT

Pelekikena

cc: R. Puahala, President, O`ahu Council-AHCC  
G. Bell, President, Hawai`i Island Council-AHCC  
Dr. Lilikala Kame`eleihiwa, Director-UH School of Traditional Hawaiian Knowledge  
A. Amaral, President, AHCC

*The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians. One of the largest of the Hawaiian Civic Clubs, its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart".*

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