



Board of Regents <bor@hawaii.edu>

I OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TMT TELESCOPE

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To: Bor@hawaii.edu

Aloha kākou,

I am a 21 year-old UH Hilo student, an environmental studies major, and I strongly oppose the construction of the TMT telescope on Mauna a Wākea.

These are the main reasons why I oppose construction:

-System Management/Paperwork

The EIS needs to be coupled with a CIS (Cultural Impact Statement) due to the fact that this mountain is sacred and very "kapu" in Hawaiian beliefs, practices, and lifestyle. This mountain is considered "ka piko i ka moku." And I ask if you can please understand what that means (See Edith Kanaka'oles essay on the Management of Mauna Kea cir.2009). Both the environmental and cultural impact statements need to be current (and by "current" I mean on a yearly basis) in order for any other action to occur. All scientists know that the earth is in constant change, and a drastic change could happen in a single day, so I am asking you to rediefine the word "current" as well.

A Social-Ecological method needs to be implemented in regards to managing Mauna Kea and its preservation AND conservation. Through an environmental perspective, I view Mauna Kea as one large resource that has MANY other resources within it. A Social-Ecological management system is needed due to the fact that many humans, plants, and animals use different resources this mountain provides all for different reasons, and there needs to be a way to manage all of the natural resources and ecosystem services(provisional, supporting, and cultural) in a coherent manner. I believe that the companies backing up TMT and TMT themselves' mission statements all have something to do with cooperating and have some aspects of a social-ecological system approach. The problem is that the cultural aspect/services this mountain provides cannot fully be understood to all TMT supporters, it is only recognized. They cannot fully grasp or understand the immeasurable significance Mauna Kea is to Hawaiians and fail to truly see the sacredness. You have probably been to the summit on Pu'u Kahau'ula or hiked to Waiau, did you not feel the mana in these places? Do you not feel how powerful this entire mountain is? I don't believe words can describe it, and I hope that you can relate. Even though books and science can classify all the dirt and rocks and fresh water up there as dead or without breath, you know as well as everyone, that people of today, and the past view(ed) this mountain as a living, breathing, "mana-full" kumu (source and teacher).

Placing an 8 acre foundation, 18-story high telescope on a mountain as sacred as Mauna Kea is very insulting and saddening if you can see through the eyes of a Hawaiian for a second. And enviornmentally does not seem to be a good idea at all. Mauna Kea is not only a cultural source but a natural resource. Construction of this facility has the potential to damage water sources in the short and long term. Any type of development of the mountain is sure to cause erosion of sediments and other unkown substances coming from construction of the facility or the facility itself will cause runoff and seep into the watershed and trickle throughout all of the channels of wai. There is no 100% guarantee that this facility can prevent waste leakage forever, and just one bad leak or any type of malfunction within the facility could cause detrimental affects to all that DEPEND ON this mountain as a source (and that is pretty much every one on Hawai'i island). What Mauna Kea needs is a maika'i loa social-ecological management system where every aspect within the system can be completely respected.

I understand that with this comes more construction jobs for the SHORT TERM but what about in the long run? I want to humbly ask those funding TMT, especially OHA and other Hawaiian-based companies to really REALLY understand how special and kapu the mountain is, and then once you understand ask yourself, is money/economic gain more important to you that you would risk this 'āina and its resources it naturally provides? What are you gaining? Is it something truly worthy? Is it something intangible?

Aloha nui,

Jowell Guerreiro