



Board of Regents &lt;bor@hawaii.edu&gt;

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## TMT Maunakea Oposition

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Lance Pedro(2015) &lt;lance.pedro@halaukumana.org&gt;

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To: bor@hawaii.edu

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Aloha kakou,

I, Lance Pedro, Oppose the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project. The construction of this telescope will further the cultural and ecological crisis in Hawai'i. Culturally, the land cares for the people and supplies us with the things, such as food and water, that we need to survive. No one has the right to desecrate the aina in such a way. People go up on that *mauna* (mountain) strictly for religious practices. People have been and continue to mourn for the destruction of that mountain because of cultural, spiritual, and genealogical ties with this mauna. There continues to be a complete disregard for our arguments and religious practices.

The water table as well as the aquifer that is located within the *mauna* (mountain) has been feeding the entire island of *Hawai'i* since its creation. Since the construction of the first telescope on *Mauna Kea* in 1970 to now, there have been several accounts of mercury spills as a result of poor regulation systems from the tenants who use that *mauna* as a place of study along with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (D.L.N.R.). When this telescope is poorly managed like the other 13 that are currently up there, the affects that it will have on the environment would be far greater because of how deep that observatory sits into the *mauna*. The possibility for the water source to be rendered useless because of mercury pollution is not something we are willing to risk.

The endangered *Wekiu* bug calls *Mauna kea* its home. Because of how close the species is to extinction, the final Environmental Impact Statement was not done as thorough as it should have been because of the many violations that contradict the "legal" acceptance/ approval of this observatory. According to the national parks and wildlife act of 1974, the act of threatening an endangered species directly or indirectly is punishable by law. The penalty for this crime is a fine of \$1.1 million and, or, up to 1 year imprisonment. There should already be arrests made in violation of this act!

The D.L.N.R. has continued to lease the land to the University of Hawai'i despite the many violations that have clearly been committed in the name of education and science. According to the D.L.N.R. lease to UH, they have received confirmation for "an" observatory. "An" means "one" in the English language. There are currently 13 telescopes that have been constructed on the summit of that *Mauna*. This is clearly a violation of the lease from the D.L.N.R. therefore we demand that UH be evicted and deconstruct existing structures from *Mauna kea* and that the mountain be returned to its former state, prior to development.

In conclusion, I oppose the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope because of the water pollution, the threatening of the endangered endemic *Wekiu* bug, the violations of existing lease holds, as well as the protection of Hawaiian cultural and spiritual beliefs.

Kapu Aloha,  
Lance Pedro