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Aloha,

My name is Janelle Lanae Williams and I am a resident of Waimea on Hawai'i Island. I graduated from the University of Hawai'i with honors in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and a Certificate in Planning. As a student at the University I focused my academic track on understanding watershed management, sustainability and how cultural ecological knowledge has benefited science and decision making. With this background and my understanding of Hawaiian culture I am **here in strong opposition** to the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope on the summit of Mauna Kea and I strongly urge you to **stop construction** of the Thirty Meter Telescope permanently.

Having respect for our host culture and holding that Mauna Kea is sacred from a Hawaiian perspective as well as from an Earth conscious perspective I hope you will see the error in allowing this 186ft tall 5 acre construction to proceed on the most sacred summit of Hawai'i. Knowing this is a sacred place, a center of creation for Hawaiians documented in numerous stories, chants, and songs should be enough to see that this project would cause irreparable damage to cultural identity for those Hawaiians that hold these stories and chants in a place of respect and reverence. And for many even more this is a place of prayer, a temple, a church. This mountain is a place that many believe God can be felt, heard, and prayed to in a more direct and sacred way. In addition numerous families including my kumu hula, Uncle Paul Neves, have been going to this Mountain for prayer and ceremony for years. It is clear this is a sacred place for thousands. Please acknowledge this and stop the construction of this Thirty Meter Telescope.

From a scientific perspective, the summit is home to extremely rare plant, moss and lichen communities that have been documented in a 2011 botanical survey clearly explained here by field crew leader Eric Hansen (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w_4EInEQIRQ). Eric Hansen was hired by the Office of Mauna Kea Management to perform a baseline biological survey. As he states in the video, "You find unique plant communities and vegetation that I've never seen anywhere else. And on the mountain, it is one of the few places you can find anything like that. So we are talking about lichens, mosses, plants : ferns, grasses that aren't found anywhere else." From what I understand the findings of this botanical survey were omitted and largely ignored but as he states, "the area where they are proposing the thirty meter telescope has its own unique composition of plants and other life forms." The Office of Mauna Kea Management is supposed to have all of this information available to the public however this has been largely unavailable for those concerned about the Mauna on many levels. As Eric Hansen states he finds that this construction will "Substantially impact the natural resources that are there," and I agree.

Finally I would like to again ask that you reconsider your approval of the proposed Thirty Meter Telescope. Clearly stated in the preface of the final version of the Environmental Impact Statement,

"The cultural attachment to the environment and nature bears direct relationship to the beliefs, practices, cultural evolution, and identity of a people. Maunakea bears much significance because it is believed that the points of highest altitude are sacred and open the gateways to Heaven. Six main zones can be found on the slopes of Maunakea; Kuahiwi, the core summit area, is

the highest and most sacred. Tradition tells us that success to the summit was limited to high chiefs and priests, where prayers could be offered in the utmost reverence to their gods, akua.”

And yet it seems that though this must have been understood by some during this process it is merely written and documented and clearly not understood since statements have been made by the Thirty Meter Telescope Organization stating there are no cultural sites found within the construction site of Mauna Kea.

Please hear these testimonies, please consider them. Please acknowledge the cultural identity of a people and respect it. Please stop construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope.

Thank you,

Janelle L Williams