

RESOLUTION ON CONSTRUCTION OF THE THIRTY METER TELESCOPE
(TMT) ON MAUNA KEA, HAWAI‘I, AND THE DANIEL K. INOUYE SOLAR
TELESCOPE ON HALEAKALĀ, MĀUI

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents and the Administrative leadership under President David Lassner are committed to the University of Hawai‘i mission and strategic plan which states The University’s purpose and responsibility “...as the only provider of public higher education in Hawai‘i, the University embraces its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawai‘i and to Hawai‘i’s indigenous language and culture...”, and

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents and the Administrative leadership under President David Lassner in the University of Hawai‘i Strategic Directions 2015-2021 have committed to being “the world’s foremost indigenous serving university and embrace its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawai‘i...”, and

WHEREAS, The University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents and the Administrative leadership under President David Lassner in the University of Hawai‘i BOR Policy on Sustainability, EP 4.202 in reference to sustainability have committed to “Embrace the culture, wisdom and fundamental values of the indigenous people of Hawai‘i...”, and

WHEREAS, The BOR Policy concerning the University of Hawai‘i’s commitment to the Native Hawaiian Community in III.C.4.c.4 states that the UH President will “actively solicit consultation from the Native Hawaiian community and specifically Pūko‘a, the system-wide council of Native Hawaiian faculty, staff and students that serves as advisory to the President”; and

WHEREAS, President David Lassner has neither sought out Pūko‘a consultation on matters concerning the Thirty Meter Telescope on Mauna Kea, nor the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope on Haleakalā, Maui, as should be his responsibility to do so, nor has he responded to our initial advisory opinion dated, April 8, 2015 in which we dispensed the Pūko‘a Council’s advice that President Lassner halt construction of the TMT on Mauna Kea as it was disrespectful and devaluing of Native Hawaiians; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a case before the Hawai‘i State Supreme Court examining the matter of issuing the permits to build and then proceeding to move forward with TMT construction while a petition for a contested case hearing was delivered to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and a contested case was not yet conducted in accordance with the procedural rules established in HRS §91-9; and

WHEREAS, constituent members of Pūko‘a and the Lau‘ulu Advisory Council of Maui College have been actively involved in calling for the halting of the construction of the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope on Haleakalā, Maui since 2003 for many of the same reasons as those Hawaiians who are calling for the halting of construction of the TMT on Mauna Kea; and

WHEREAS, The Mauna Kea and Haleakalā Summits are sacred sites for Native

Hawaiians that have been consistently developed and mismanaged over the continued objections of Hawaiian practitioners and other Hawaiians of conscience, and the proceeding of this development over the objections of so large a constituency of Native Hawaiians including the advice of its own diverse Hawaiian advisory committee does not conform with the stated mission and objectives of this University claiming to “Embrace its unique responsibilities to the indigenous peoples of Hawai‘i,” and to “Embrace the culture, wisdom and fundamental values of the indigenous people of Hawai‘i,” and to serve as an example of leadership seeking to become “the world’s foremost indigenous serving university;” and

WHEREAS, the Mauna Kea and Haleakalā Summits are respectively classified as State Conservation Districts and in the case of Haleakalā, a federally protected Wilderness area, and in our estimation the construction of these facilities contradicts the conservation mission of the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural Resources where they state, that they will “uphold the laws that serve to protect, conserve and manage Hawai‘i’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources..,” and the in the case of Haleakalā, the telescope there contradicts the Wilderness Protection Act which states that places designated as wilderness are “...areas of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions...”; and

WHEREAS, The Mauna Kea and Haleakalā Summits are Crown Lands of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, and the matter of jurisdiction over these lands are as of this time unresolved, and disputed issues,

BE IT RESOLVED, that The Pūko‘a Council calls for the BOR and President Lassner to order a permanent halt to the construction of both the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on Mauna Kea, Hawai‘i, and the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope on Haleakalā, Maui; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The Pūko‘a Council calls for the Governor of Hawai‘i, David Ige, to direct the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and its constituent Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement to rescind all current building permits for both the TMT on Mauna Kea and the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope on Haleakalā, Maui; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Pūko‘a Council calls for University of Hawai‘i President David Lassner to take the difficult step of leading the University of Hawai‘i toward becoming an “Indigenous-serving institution that embraces its unique responsibilities to the indigenous people of Hawai‘i, and embraces the culture, wisdom and fundamental values of the indigenous people of Hawai‘i,” by abrogating all decisions in the affirmative of developing both the TMT on Mauna Kea, and the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope on Haleakalā, Maui, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that President David Lassner discontinue the colonial method of decision-making where consultation and discussion never results in a project’s rejection being a possible option, and instead involves currying favor with a few Hawaiian supporters, persevering through public testimony that is in opposition to

projects, and then moving forward anyway with development despite continued objections and displays of great anguish from large numbers of the indigenous people for whom you are charged to serve.