

Joseph Kualii Lindsey Camara Opening Statement

“Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.” This is the mission statement of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

The question we should ask ourselves in considering this CDUA is not what the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) will do for science, for the economy, or even for education. The question is simple, will this telescope add to the cumulative substantial adverse impacts that astronomy has had on the limited, unique and sacred resources of Mauna Kea?

If DLNR takes on the role of using our limited resources to further astronomy and bolster national defense, what entity is left to protect our resources?

I respect what TMT hopes to do for science and the work they have done planning this endeavor, but the simple fact is that the resources of Mauna Kea have already sustained substantial, adverse, cumulative impacts by astronomy development. To knowingly allow for further destruction would be negligent on the part of DLNR and a failure of their fiduciary responsibility to enhance, protect and conserve the unique, limited resources of Hawaii nei.

We are all continuing to learn of the cultural and spiritual significance that Mauna Kea carries. Impacts developments may have on cultural spiritual resources are hard to foresee, quantify and articulate. Documents like EISs and Management Plans often fall short in taking the full impact to these types of factors into consideration. Until we fully understand the spiritual significance of Mauna Kea and its implications for our planet, we should employ the precautionary principle and halt destructive development.

I, along with countless others across this planet consider a development with the magnitude of the TMT project to be an act of desecration on Mauna Kea and the people who consider it sacred. I see Mauna Kea as a temple, an ancestor, and a physical embodiment of the akua Wakea and Kane. It is my ancestral kuleana and birthright to protect our sacred mountain from further desecration.

It is this kuleana that compels me to stand for Mauna Kea in this contested case. It is my hope that the Honorable Judge Ricky Amano, as an agent of DLNR, will uphold its mission and function to protect the threatened natural, cultural and spiritual resources of Mauna Kea.

**Ua Mau ke Ea o ka Aina I ka Pono**

Me ke aloha aina,

Joseph Kualii Lindsey Camara \_\_\_\_\_ Hilo, Hawaii \_\_\_\_\_

