MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. Tom K. Tagawa, State Forester

From: Libert K. Landgraf, District Forester

Subject: Comments on "An Assessment of Environmental Impact Resulting from the Development of a Telescope and Observatory Facilities"

The proposed development of a 142-inch telescope under a tri-party agreement between France, Canada and Hawaii is per missory on four other proposals and whether the Board of Land and Natural Resources will allow the present lessee to sublet a portion of the project site for development. It is a difficult task to make an intelligent assessment of this proposal when it is dependent on the outcome of a previous proposal. The apparent ploy utilized by the University of Hawaii is a bombardment of information and proposals under the banner of education and scientific research.

Under the same guise, they seemingly are trying to ramrod these programs through, forsaking controlled and wise planning. How can 2.1 million dollars in foreign currency and $400,000 of U.S. money justify abandonment of controlled planning? It would cost millions more to undo a mistake.

Let it serve as a reminder that the land area in question is under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources. This, in effect, say the mountain belongs to the people, for their use and enjoyment. Education and scientific research is a noble cause but it should not be made at a loss to the people.

The implication that the summit of Mauna Kea will be dotted with observatories because of its superiority for astronomical observations is distressing. This implication, by itself, reinforces the need for discreet and controlled planning.

LIBERT K. LANDGRAF
District Forester