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Kealoha Pisciotto, President
Mauna Kea Anaina Hou
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Aloha,

I am sending this letter because you have demonstrated through your actions a deep commitment to Mauna Kea.

I wanted to bring your attention to the start of the environmental process for a proposed telescope project. The proposed project is called the Thirty Meter Telescope, or TMT, because the diameter of the mirror would be thirty meters. We are starting preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this project. The first step of the environmental process will be the publication of the EIS Preparation Notice (EISPN), which is scheduled to begin the 30-day "scoping" period after September 23, 2008.

Our scoping process will include these elements:

- Issuance of the EISPN
- Public meetings
- Small group meetings. If your group would like to meet with us please let me know and I will work with you to meet and discuss concerns.

We have coordinated with the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) and believe we understand the relationship of the Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) to our EIS process. The Hawai'i environmental review process will not be completed until the CMP has been adopted.

Nonetheless, we are ready to begin a discussion that we expect to extend for some time, and so wanted to be sure you understood how to participate in the EIS process. Comments made during the scoping process will be addressed in the Draft EIS.

As someone with a demonstrated, deep commitment to the mountain, we want to afford you every opportunity to be heard during our scoping process. Therefore, you will receive a hard copy of the EISPN when it is issued. It will be available both digitally and in hard copy. We would be happy to send you materials in digital form if you prefer. Please let me know. I would like to know also if you would prefer to be removed from our mailing list.

You may find more information at our website at www.TMT-HawaiiEIS.org that includes a project description and frequently asked questions.

Mahalo,


Sandra Dawson