

From: Drs. Keaweʻaimoku Kaholokula, Marjorie Mau, Winona Lee, Dee-Ann Carpenter, Martina Kamaka, Robin Miyamoto, Andrea Hermosua, Kawika Mortensen, Tricia Mabellos, and Ms. Mele Look ,Chessa Harris and Mr. Kamuela Werner

**Re: The protection of Mauna Kea as a cultural and natural resource**

This statement is being made by physicians, scientists, and cultural practitioners who aloha ʻāina and who happen to be leaders of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health in the John A. Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. However, we are not making this statement in our capacity as faculty of the university nor is this an official statement of the university.

In 2003, the Department of Native Hawaiian Health was established at University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa. Its mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of Kānaka ʻŌiwi (Native Hawaiians) by increasing the cadre of Kanaka ʻŌiwi and other health professionals and scientists working toward health equity for Kānaka ʻŌiwi through health care services and scientific research and through community engagement and empowerment. In meeting our mission, we embrace biomedical and behavioral sciences and Kānaka ʻŌiwi cultural knowledge and tradition. We value science and its potential in improving the lives of all people and we value our Kanaka ʻŌiwi culture and its offering of continuity and Maui Ola (optimal and holistic health and wellbeing) for Kānaka ʻŌiwi.

The movement to protect Mauna Kea (aka, Mauna a Wākea) by concerned Kānaka ʻŌiwi is their ancestral kuleana (responsibility) to mālama ʻāina (land stewardship) and means of ensuring Maui Ola. Cultural protection and revitalization of historical and sacred places are important social and cultural determinants of Maui Ola for Kānaka ʻŌiwi. It is as important to Maui Ola as access to safe and well-resourced neighborhoods, excellent education, healthy food options, physical activity opportunities, and quality health care.

Coming from a tradition of seafarers and skilled navigators, who looked up to the heavens and night skies for knowledge and guidance, Kānaka ʻŌiwi can appreciate astronomy's quest to understand the mysteries of the universe and our collective existence in, and connection to, this universe. Kānaka ʻŌiwi also appreciate and holdfast to cultural knowledge, traditions, and wahi pana (sacred places) that also explain our existence in, and connection to, this place we call Hawaiʻi.

In respect for both traditions, astronomy and Kānaka ʻŌiwi, the leadership of the Department of Native Hawaiian Health calls for an extended moratorium until a balanced resolution between the astronomy and Kānaka ʻŌiwi community is achieved. And may it be done with inspiration from the words of our ancestors, *ʻAʻohe pau ka ʻike i ka hālau hoʻokahi* (not all knowledge is acquired through one school).