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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF HAWAII

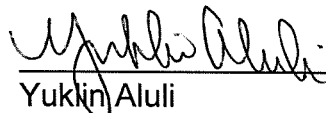
In the Matter of:)	Case No. BLNR-CC-16-002
)	
A Contested Case Hearing Re	)	KAHEA: THE HAWAIIAN
Conservation District Use Permit	)	ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE
(COUP) HA-3568 for the Thirty Meter	)	THIRTEENTH SUPPLEMENTAL
Telescope at the Mauna Kea Science	)	EXHIBIT DESIGNATION; EXHIBIT
Reserve, Kaohe Mauka, Hamakua	)	B.80
District, Island of Hawai'i, TMK (3) 4-4-	)	[Response of Marti Townsend on
015:009	)	February 14, 2017 to the Environment
	)	Hawaii blog " <i>In TMT Hearing, Sierra</i>
	)	<i>Club Director Makes Several Dubious</i>
	)	<i>Assertions</i> " published February 3,
	)	2017]; CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
)	
)	
	)	Hearing Officer: Riki J. Amano.

**KAHEA: THE HAWAIIAN-ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE THIRTEENTH
 SUPPLEMENTAL EXHIBIT DESIGNATION; EXHIBIT B.80
 [Response of Marti Townsend on February 14, 2017 to the Environmental
 Hawaii article "*In TMT Hearing, Sierra Club Director Makes Several
 Dubious Assertions*" published February 3, 2017]**

COMES NOW KAHEA: THE HAWAIIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ALLIANCE, by and through its above-named counsel, and hereby submits its Thirteenth Supplemental Exhibit (Exhibit B.80) Designation.

Exhibit No.	Description	Rec'd Into Evidence
B.80	Response of Marti Townsend on February 14, 2017 to the Environment Hawaii blog " <i>In TMT Hearing, Sierra Club Director Makes Several Dubious Assertions</i> " published February 3, 2017	

DATED: Kailua, Hawaii, 3-2-17



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Response of Marti Townsend on February 14, 2017 to the **Environment Hawaii** blog "*In TMT Hearing, Sierra Club Director Makes Several Dubious Assertions*" published February 3, 2017

Aloha Pat,

Thank you for the opportunity to defend my statements in this comment. How ironically hopeful it is to see my work is building common ground between you and Mililani Trask. ;)

1. On my job. This may be a small point, but I am not in fact the Executive Director of the Sierra Club. That is Michael Brune. I am the chapter director for the Hawai'i Chapter. The Hawai'i Chapter has not taken a position on the TMT, but its volunteer-led group on Hawai'i Island did take a position in opposition. For those not reading the whole transcript (and I certainly do not blame you), I took the day off from my day-job to testify, paid my own way there and back. ☐
2. On ruining the viewplane. My testimony, like that offered by others, demonstrated how the TMT would introduce a new, metallic obstruction for anyone looking for an intact natural viewplane while on or near the summit of Mauna Kea. Pu'u Poliahu is one place to currently enjoy such an intact viewplane. I am pretty sure I got the name right for the pu'u across the northern plateau from Pu'u Poliahu, but even if I didn't my point stands: building the TMT on the northern plateau would put a big shiny building in the way of anyone trying to enjoy the 360-degree view from Pu'u Poliahu. And yes, you can see the sun rise and set from there. And yes, you could see from there the red balloon simulating the height of the TMT during the site visit first contested case hearing. What would be really helpful in this discussion is a viewplane analysis worthy of the title, but we don't have that, otherwise we'd be citing to it. ☐
3. On size. The TMT would have a footprint of 5 acres. TMT FEIS Vol. 1, page 2-10. ☐
4. On wekiu. It is a rare bug found only on the summits of Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa. Its extremely limited habitat is destroyed by construction activities on the mountains, like roads and telescopes. See, "R.A. Englund, Range, habitat, and ecology of the wekiu bug (*Nysius Wekiuicola*), a rare insect species unique to Mauna Kea, Hawaii Island," Final report, 2002. That's my point. ☐
5. On comprehensive. Judge Hara's order was that the management plan offered during the permitting process for the abandoned Outrigger telescopes was insufficient because it was not "comprehensive." In his written decision he said, "The resource that needs to be conserved,

protected and preserved is the summit area of Mauna Kea, not just the area of the Outrigger Telescopes Project.” If only the telescope project area is planned for, Judge Hara concluded, “the result will not be consistent with the purposes of appropriate management nor the promotion of long-term sustainability of protected resources required by Haw. Rev. Stat. §183-1.” Hawai’i Revised Statutes Chapter 183 governs conservation districts. The driving concern of this court ruling was protection of the conservation district, not the project area. This court opinion is consistent with previous management plans for Mauna Kea, such as the 1977 plan, which considered the conservation district from the summit to Saddle Road.☐

6. On following the law. The 1998 Auditor’s Report of UH’s mismanagement of Mauna Kea, on page 33: “Between 1967 And 1970 the first three telescopes were built by NASA, the Air Force, and the University. However, the university failed to submit a CDUA for these 3 telescopes. Not until 1976 or almost 6 years later did the university notice this error and submit the required CDUA. The Department [of Land and Natural Resources] took no punitive action.” Page 3 of the TMT’s own Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) confirms this with a list of telescope-related facilities and their after-the-fact permits. ☐☐Section 1.5 of the EIS for the abandoned Outrigger Telescopes provides a “Comprehensive Search for Environmental Information” conducted on Mauna Kea up to that point. There it describes a “project description” for the Subaru telescope (1979), but no EIS; a project description and environmental assessment for the Gemini telescope (1999), but no EIS. There are a couple telescopes on that list that received an “environmental review” by the Research Corporation of UH (an environmental review is not an actual thing). The one I love the most is the EIS for UH/IRTF/CTHR, which makes clear that it “is concerned with the on-going operations of the existing University of Hawaii (UH) telescopes, [and] the construction of two new telescopes.” That is to say, the UH telescopes were getting their EIS after they were built. And that was my point.

7. On glaciers. I stand by my admission at the time to not knowing a thing about glaciers beyond that I have heard knowledgeable people discuss their existence. But since you make a thing of it, I asked google and it pointed me to this slim read that talks about glacier leftovers found beneath the surface of Mauna Kea in 1974: Sherrod, D.R., 2007, Geologic Map of the State of Hawai’i: U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2007-1089.

I get it. Environment Hawai’i disagrees with me because I find the construction of telescopes in the conservation district indefensible. And it is okay, reasonable people can disagree. But I think it is time astronomers — and their environmental advocates — come to terms with the fact that this fight is less about telescopes and defending science, and more about protecting our conservation areas and ensuring a fair application of the laws designed to protect them. Standing up for Mauna Kea against this massive construction project is standing up for

conservation districts everywhere. Defending the amazing natural beauty and cultural significance of this unique mountain, helps defend the shorelines and forests designated for conservation but coveted for profit by developers of subdivisions and hotels.

The fact that you may not have seen the opposition to the TMT until recently does not mean it was not there. The struggle to defend Mauna Kea has a long and storied history. You should look up the report Peter Adler completed for the Moore Foundation that outlined the history of community opposition, broken promises, and built telescopes on this mountain. Adler anticipated that the exact thing we are experiencing today would happen because there has never been a genuine reconciliation between those pushing to build (we promise its the last) telescope and those defending the irreplaceable from permanent destruction. Promising money and jobs, hosting advisory councils and listening sessions — that is not genuine reconciliation.

The struggle to defend Mauna Kea has taught me, a bona fide environmentalist, so much about a way of life that truly recognizes nature as king. In this era of unhinged capitalism and enduring colonialism, we could all stand to learn much more from such a culture.

I hope this information is helpful.

BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

STATE OF HAWAII

Contested Case Hearing Re Conservation
District Use Application (CDUA) HA-3568
for the Thirty Meter Telescope at the Mauna
Kea Science Reserve, Ka'ohē Mauka,
Hāmākua, Hawai'i, TMK (3) 4-4-015:009

BLNR Contested Case HA-16-02

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that the attached document was served upon the following parties by the means indicated:

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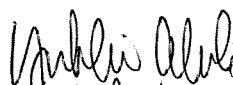
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