

May 31, 2016

TO: BLNR Chair Suzanne D. Case & Board Members

FR: Tiffnie Kakalia  
[address redacted]

RE: Request to be admitted as a party in the contested case hearing for CDUP HA-3568 for the Thirty Meter Telescope in the Mauna Kea Lands, Ka'ohe, Hamakua District, Island of Hawai'i, TMK (3) 4-4-015:009

I'm requesting to be admitted as a party to the above contested case hearing pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules §13-1-31. This request should be granted because: (1) Requestor has a property interest in the lands of Mauna Kea through the exercise of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices; (2) Requestor will be affected by the proposed Thirty Meter Telescope project and has an interest in the proceedings that are clearly distinguishable from the general public; (3) Requestor has a substantial interest in the proceedings; (4) Requestor's participation will substantially assist the board in its decision making; (5) Requestor's position is not substantially the same as any existing parties to the proceedings; and (6) Requestor's participation will add substantially new relevant information and will not make the proceedings inefficient and unmanageable.

Requestor's specific, substantial interests in the contested case proceedings also consists as follows: I am a Native Hawaiian, descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and have lived in Hawai'i for 44 years. My ancestors hail from the four cardinal points of Hawai'i Island, which includes, Hilo, Kohala, Kona and Ka'u. I was raised on the slopes Maunakea, the same community as my mother, her father and paternal grandparents. I have raised my children to know our mauna and now my grandchildren. In addition to conducting cultural practices relevant to healing traditions, my family has been active protectors amongst Ku Kia'i Mauna initiatives. I served as a volunteer on the Kahu Ku Mauna Cultural Advisory Council for 7 years (2007-2015), contributed to many discussions relating to TMT, management issues and the high level of concern regarding legislative audits finding the Office of Mauna Kea Management (OMKM) negligent of managing cultural resources since it's inception. I am very concerned that the University of Hawai'i, especially OMKM is not providing BLNR (and other agencies involved with decisions being made on the mauna) with whole truths on accounts of consultation with its cultural advisory council. The current council is comprised of members that were not part of those discussions. The TMT project will provide substantial, adverse and irreversible damage to a significantly sacred cultural site, which will significantly impact our family practice, the wellness of our 'ohana and community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffnie Kakalia