

Aloha Mai Kākou,

‘O wau ‘o Steven Thomas, he kia‘i ‘āina wau mai ka ‘ili‘āina o Waikakalaua ma ka mokupuni ‘o O‘ahuniālua.

My name is Steven Thomas, I am from what is today called Mililani, O‘ahu. My testimony for the September 12 Board meeting is specifically directed toward the existing and projected future development of Mauna Kea. I am unequivocally opposed to any of it; particularly the Thirty Meter Telescope.

It has been well-documented that every single telescope has faced opposition to it’s construction. We have also seen that the more momentum the practice of disregard the cultural concerns of Hawaiians has gained, the easier it has become to continue tat disregard.

I am here to say NO MORE. The time has come for this to STOP. This Hawai‘i that has government entities and agencies in place which further the American agenda need to be held to the fire. When will the word NO be acceptable. We keep getting told that we have to be willing to compromise. But it has been that very compromise that has Hawaiians moving away from Hawai‘i in droves.

We are done compromising! The survival of our culture dictates that we be done compromising.

The formation of the MKSOA board has been the closest we have come and the best chance to dat that we have of actually being heard and listened to.

So I will say in no uncertain terms:

1. ‘A‘ole TMT
2. Scrap the idea
3. If not, we‘ll be back on that road
4. We‘ll be arrested
5. Some of us may die

This is the truth and, for us it is self-evident

Mahalo and Kū Kia‘i Mauna!

# Report on Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) Attacks and Space Domain Security

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As a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives and being born and raised on the Big Island Of Hawaii, I feel a profound responsibility to address the vulnerabilities our state and nation face, particularly from the threat of Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) attacks. Such an attack has the potential to decimate critical infrastructure, including power grids, telecommunications, water supply, and military operations. Hawaii, due to its geographical location, is especially vulnerable to such threats, making it crucial that we focus on defending our islands by upgrading our coverage area to encompass the space domain.

## **Historical Vulnerability To EMP:**

Hawaii has faced the devastating effects of an EMP in the past. On July 9, 1962, during "Operation Starfish Prime," a nuclear detonation caused a significant EMP that disrupted radio communications and electrical systems in Hawaii, even though the explosion occurred 850 miles away. This event serves as a warning that Hawaii remains highly susceptible to similar attacks.

Additionally, the false ballistic missile alert in January 2018, which created widespread panic, underscored our vulnerability. Although this event was a technical failure, it highlighted the grave dangers Hawaii faces from foreign adversaries such as North Korea, who possess nuclear capabilities. The potential for an EMP attack from such adversaries is real and must be urgently addressed.

## **Space Domain Control:**

The U.S. Space Force, particularly the Department of the Air Force (DAF), plays a critical role in defending our nation from these types of threats. Control over the space domain allows us to detect, deter, and mitigate threats, including EMP attacks, by monitoring the movements and capabilities of potential adversaries in real time. The expansion of the Air Force Maui Optical and Supercomputing Site (AMOS) STAR facility with new telescopes and an optics lab is not just a matter of science and curiosity but of national security.

This project will provide the U.S.(Hawaii) with crucial satellite tracking and communication capabilities. It will enhance our ability to detect objects in space and identify threats, particularly from electromagnetic weapons. If the U.S. does not advance its control and broaden visibility over the space domain, we risk being blind to threats, making our infrastructure and military operations vulnerable to an array of attacks and surveillance operations.

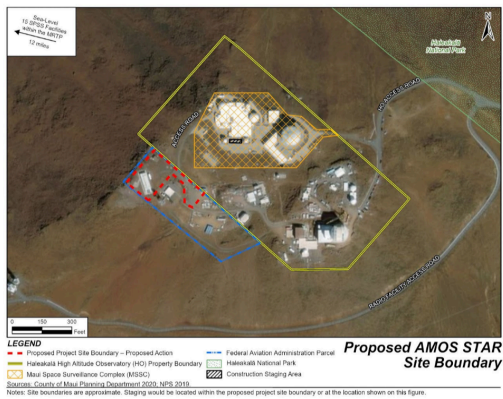
## **Urgent Need for Support of the Space Force:**

The AMOS STAR project must receive full support, as it is essential to both Hawaii's and the nation's defense especially amid rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific Region. This project differs from the controversial Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) because it is a threat to **National Security** and the protection of Hawaii from immediate threats. The improvements are not for leisure and exploration but for Counter Terrorism Surveillance, protection, and communication that could prevent or mitigate catastrophic EMP attacks.

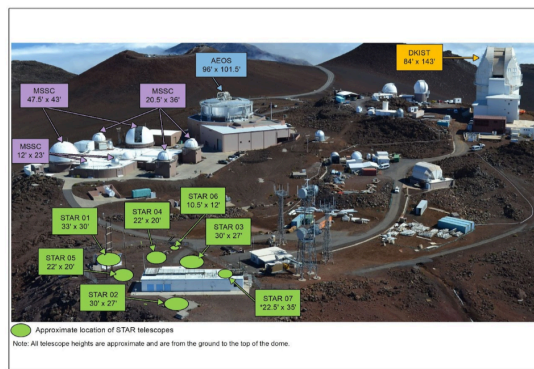
Unlike the TMT, the AMOS STAR facility will be built on pre-existing infrastructure, with no new land required. This project will operate within already developed areas on the summit of Haleakalā and will not impose any new significant environmental burdens. The improvements being proposed are not of the scale of the Daniel K. Inouye Solar Telescope; in fact, they are comparatively smaller and are essentially enhancements of existing infrastructure.

In many ways, this project is comparable to adding an additional dwelling unit (ADU) to a single-family home. It will strengthen the existing capabilities without requiring massive excavating or encroaching on untouched land. The cost-benefit analysis is clear: the minor addition of the AMOS STAR facility is far outweighed by the protection it will provide from an inevitable and devastating EMP attack.

### Proposed AMOS STAR Site Boundary

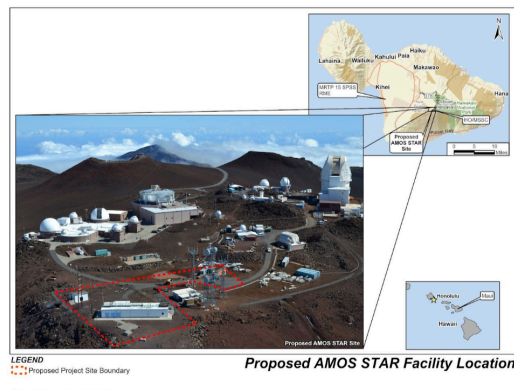
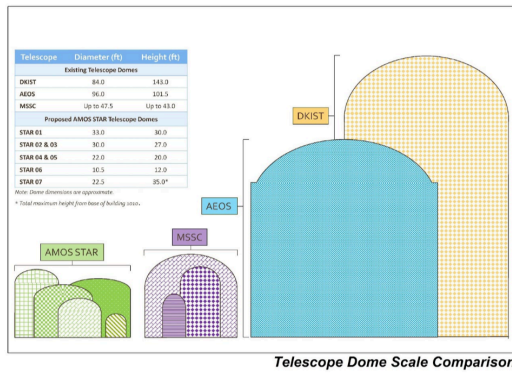


### Telescope Dome Dimensions



Telescope Dome Dimensions

### Telescope Dome Scale Comparison



### Call to Action:

I urge the Maunakea Stewardship and Oversight Authority (MKSOA) to open discussion including the possibility of mauna kea as the alternative location for project AMOS STAR if negotiation efforts with Maui County Council fail. Perhaps local officials can reconsider their recent decision. It is imperative to differentiate between this national security initiative and the concerns raised by other projects, such as the TMT. The AMOS STAR facility will ensure the safety and security of Hawaii and the entire Pacific region by allowing us to control the space domain and protect ourselves from foreign adversaries and terrorist organizations.

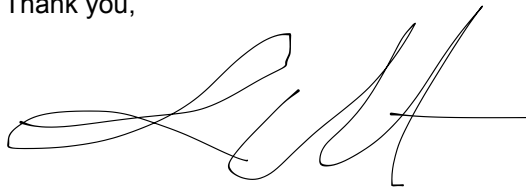
The cost of opposing this project is unimaginable—our communication systems, power grids, and military operations could all be wiped out by a single EMP attack. Let us apply a balancing approach and recognize that the benefits of this project far outweigh any costs, as it will directly contribute to the defense of Hawaii and the United States.

Let's pray for clarity in decision-making, for the safety of our homeland, and for the MKSOA to open a meaningful conversation on how to protect our future. Now is the time to strengthen Hawaii's defenses, and this project will play a pivotal role in that effort.

**Conclusion:**

In summary, the threat of EMP attacks is real and must be taken seriously. The AMOS STAR project is critical for national security and is a necessary step toward defending Hawaii from the growing threats we face in today's world. This project is about protecting our future, ensuring that Hawaii remains secure, and that our nation maintains control over the space domain. My hope is that perhaps the armed forces can inspire and attract the smartest and strongest leaders because it has become a threat to national security. Too many intellects moving to other countries seeking opportunity leaves us with little to work with, Look at our current situation where our leaders choose not to comment on this project resulting in a unanimous opposition to a critical project that affects the safety of our communities in the aftermath of the most devastating disaster that could have possibly been handled differently or avoided had advanced technologies and capabilities been adopted.

Thank you,



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