

Wao Akua: A Sacred Summit

Mauna Kea is derived from “Mauna a Wakea,” which means *Mountain of Wakea, the Sky Father*. Mauna Kea is the place where Wakea (Sky Father) joins Papa (Earth Mother), united the heavens to the Hawaiian Islands. The summit is the dwelling place of Gods and ancestors. Poli’ahu, the goddess of snow, and her sister protect the sacred watershed headlands--sharing their pure waters as testament of love for the farmers and fishermen of the island. The distinct profile of Poliahu’s figure can be seen stretching across the summit region. Ancient traditional, cultural, and religious practices live on in the observances of modern Hawaiians who continue to honor the sacred summit.

Hawaiian Sciences

Long before western telescopes, Hawaiians advanced navigation, astronomy and meteorology atop the sacred summit. Mauna Kea continues to teach generations of students the complex sciences of the ancient Hawaiians. However, the many massive, multi-storied telescopes now obstruct the horizon and summit view-plane, interrupting traditional science and observation practices. Ancient way-finding and celestial-mapping sites are at risk and many have already been destroyed. Constant noise disrupts the quiet peacefulness of the summit. Increased use of telescopes for military purposes may be used to justify eliminating full cultural access rights to the mountain.

Mountain of Water

Under the stunning landscape of unique volcanic stones and geological structures is a frozen glacial layer that replenishes Hawaii Island’s primary aquifer. Mauna Kea is the main head waters for the Island of Hawai’i. These waters are seriously threatened by current telescope activities. Hazardous materials such as elemental mercury, acids and solvents are used by the telescope industry. There have been numerous toxic mercury spills in the watershed, threatening to contaminate Hawaii’s most important groundwater resource. In addition, telescope-related human activity generates over 50,000 gallons of human sewage each month, which seeps into the ground via septic tank-cesspools and outdated leach fields.

Nowhere Else on Earth

Mauna Kea’s Hawaiian alpine desert is unlike any other place in the world. It is home to many Hawaiian endemic species- endemic means that they are found only in Hawaii, some are found only on Mauna Kea! This includes: 11 species of insects, such as the Wekiu bug; endangered birds, Palila (Hawaiian Honeycreeper) and Ua’u (Hawaiian Petrel); and the rare plant, ‘Ahinahina (Mauna Kea Silversword). The construction of so many telescopes in such a fragile environment destroys rare habitat and speeds the introduction of invasive species. The Wekiu bug, which lives only on the high elevation cinder cones of Mauna Kea, has suffered the loss of 90% of its range to telescope development.

Illegal: Public Trust Lands for \$1

Mauna Kea is part of Hawaii’s “ceded land trust” - lands taken by the U.S. government after the 1893 overthrow of the Hawaiian government. Hawaii state law requires any rent from ceded lands be set at fair market value and a portion of the rent received must benefit the Native Hawaiian community.

Today, the state rents the public trust lands of Mauna Kea for only \$1 a year--this is NOT the fair market value required by law. Multi-millions in profits are being made on Mauna Kea. The state Board of Land and Natural Resources *can* and *should* charge appropriate rent. *Rent could be valued at more than \$50 million per year!* These millions could be used for restoring and managing resources, protecting cultural sites, and to benefit community health, housing, scholarships and education.

Its Official: Bad Management = Bad Impacts

The Hawaii State Auditor has found UH’s management of Mauna Kea “inadequate to ensure the protection of natural resources” and “neglected ...the cultural value of Mauna Kea.” Their report stated that UH’s Institute for Astronomy “focused primarily on the development of Mauna Kea and tied the benefits gained to its research program,” and that its focus on telescope construction has been “at the expense of neglecting the site’s natural resources.”

A 2005 NASA environmental impact statement (EIS) confirmed that the impacts of the telescope industry on the cultural and natural resources of Mauna Kea have been “substantial, adverse and significant.”



“In our worldview, we cannot support de-creation. It is against the law of the universe and creator to eliminate a species. Mauna Kea is vast, but it is also a finite resource. You cannot keep abusing it.”

Kealoha Pisciotta
Mauna Kea
‘Ānaina Hou

The Judge says: "No Mo' Plan? No More Projects!"

According to a 2006 state court ruling, the state must have a comprehensive management plan before allowing further development on Mauna Kea.

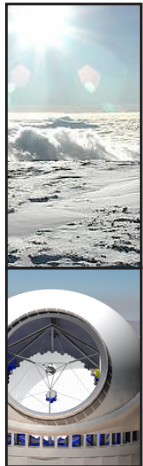
What does "NO!" Mean?

Despite 40 years of community opposition to uncontrolled telescope development, UH and the telescope industry won't take NO! for an answer.

UH is trying to change the rules to allow more telescope development. They have written their own false "management plans" and set up a hand-picked advisory board they call the "Office of Mauna Kea Management" (OMKM). But the 3rd Circuit Court struck down every one of the five plans previously drafted by the University! UH is the developer, and cannot also be the manager of these public lands.

What's Going On?

UH's hired consultant, Ku'iwalu, is now developing *yet another* false UH "management plan." Since the judge has ruled that 'no plan means no projects', UH is pressuring the state Board of Land Natural Resources (BLNR) to allow this latest false "management plan"--clearing the way for a foot-ball stadium-sized Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on undeveloped acres of Mauna Kea.



TMT: TOO MUCH ON THE TEMPLE - **Too Massive.** The proposed new Thirty Meter Telescope will be larger than all of the existing telescopes currently on the summit combined!

- **Destruction of Pristine Habitat.** Larger than the summit itself, it will require levelling the last pristine plateau on the mountain top.

- **Reasonable alternatives are being ignored.** Appropriate sites in other countries, space-based (satellite) technologies, and dismantling outdated telescopes to use existing developed areas, are preferred options that are being ignored or dismissed.

what Mauna Kea needs: SOLUTIONS FOR THE SACRED SUMMIT

(1) **A Pono Plan.** A community accepted, comprehensive management plan with appropriate limits on development and addresses current environmental & cultural degradation

(2) **Independent Managers.** An independent management authority led by a director with experience in cultural and natural resource management, and that is not controlled by the UH system or federal authorities such as the U.S. Department of Defense.

(3) **Fair Representation.** Hawaiian and environmental representation on the board of directors of the independent management authority, with meaningful participation beyond an "advisory" role.

(4) **Fair Compensation.** Appropriate payment by the astronomy industry & UH-IFA to rent the ceded lands on Mauna Kea.

YOU CAN LEARN MORE AND PARTICIPATE IN UPCOMING ACTIONS AT:

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KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance is a local grassroots non-profit working to secure protections for some of the most ecologically unique and culturally sacred places of Hawai'i nei.



MAUNA KEA IS A SACRED MOUNTAIN and habitat for endangered Hawaiian plants and animals that exist nowhere else on the planet. Part of the Hawaiian Nation, the summit is now held by the state in trust for the public. The mountain and its resources are part of the natural and spiritual heritage of all Hawai'i's people.

Yet, today Mauna Kea's public lands are being exploited by aggressive special interests.

In 1968, the people of Hawai'i agreed to allow one telescope to be built atop Mauna Kea. Today, more than 50 telescope and support structures cover the sacred summit--built without the consent of Native Hawaiians and local communities. For 30 years, local leaders and organizations have united to defend the once-pristine resources of Mauna Kea's sacred summit from the harms of uncontrolled telescope expansion. They have successfully upheld the law and educated the public about the harms of industrial development on the sacred summit.

Telescope development by the University of the Hawaii (UH), its Institute for Astronomy (IFA), and the multi-billion dollar telescope industry:

- Destroys unique land formations, important Hawaiian astronomy sites and altars.
- Increases vehicle and traffic impacts.
- Speeds the introduction of invasive species.
- Imposes noise pollution from machinery.
- Introduces toxic chemicals and sewage.
- Threatens the aquifer and pure mountain waters of Lake Waiau, sacred to Hawaiian medicine and cultural practices.

MAUNA KEA SACRED SUMMIT UNDER SIEGE

Despite numerous court losses and the defeat of several telescope development plans, new plans are now underway to construct a massive football-stadium-sized telescope on the last pristine plateau of Mauna Kea. The developers are moving forward without community consent or the comprehensive management plan required by law.

Join the people of Hawai'i, help defend the sacred summit from illegal, destructive and unnecessary telescope expansion.



Better, environmentally-sound and culturally protective options do exist!