

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA
2465 Campus Road, Campus Center 211A
Honolulu HI 96822

In the Senate
August 28, 2019

Senate Resolution 04-20
For First Reading

A RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT MAUNA KEA

BE IT ENACTED BY THE UNDERGRADUATE SENATE:

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Senate is the elected body representing approximately 10,000 full-time classified undergraduate students; and,

WHEREAS, Mauna Kea is regarded as a sacred space to the Native Hawaiian people for its cultural, religious, environmental, historical, and genealogical significance as well as contemporary studies in western astronomy; and,¹

WHEREAS, also known as Mauna a Wākea, the mauna is a place on Hawai'i Island regarded as the point where Wākea (sky father) and Papahānamoku (Earth mother), the ancestors to all Hawaiian people, met and gave birth to the islands; and,²

WHEREAS, the summit of Mauna Kea is especially regarded as sacred, for it was known as the meeting point of the akua, gods, and was once only accessible by ali'i, chiefs; and,³

WHEREAS, the land on Mauna Kea is known as a "ceded land," crown lands under the state government in Hawaii to be held in a public trust for all Native Hawaiians; and,⁴

WHEREAS, the crown lands on Mauna Kea are within a conservation district that "supercede its status as a site for astronomy, a science reserve, and a recreation area" according to the Malama Mauna Kea management plan; and,⁵

¹ ASUH Senate Resolution 13-14

² https://web.archive.org/web/20121011113028/http://www.hawaii.edu/maunakea/5_culture.pdf

³ ASUH Senate Resolution 13-14

⁴ <https://www.cnn.com/2019/07/21/us/hawaii-mauna-kea-protests/index.html>

⁵ https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/mk/files/2016/10/B.01z-Mauna_Kea_Huakahi-trails.pdf

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WHEREAS, since the 1960s, the University of Hawaii has maintained thirteen telescopes on the summit of Mauna Kea for research in astronomy as part of a lease agreement with the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources; and,⁶

WHEREAS, telescopes on Mauna Kea are shared with other universities, businesses, and organizations from the United States, Asia, and Europe; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed construction of the Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT) has created controversy from its management history and no sign of fulfilling promises to take down existing telescopes; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed telescope is considered “state of the art” by astronomers and astrophysicists, as the telescope will be 18 stories tall and contains 492 segmented mirror panels instrumental to creating higher resolution imaging of astronomical bodies and phenomena; and,⁷

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2019, faculty and staff of the University of Hawaii opposed the construction of TMT on Mauna Kea citing continued practices of “research upheld by unethical administration” that infringe upon the rights to assemble and freedom of religion guaranteed in the First Amendment; and,⁸

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2019, Governor David Ige announced that construction of TMT will commence on July 15, 2019 after the Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) approved of construction commencement following a Hawaii State Supreme Court ruling approving the project in 2018; and,⁹

WHEREAS, on July 15, 2019, kia’i, protectors, began protests against the scheduled construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope at the base of Mauna Kea on Mauna Kea Access Road; and,¹⁰

WHEREAS, the kia’i have formed Pu’uhonua O Pu’uhuluhulu, a sanctuary for Native Hawaiians and allies against the construction of the telescope; and,

⁶ <https://www.hawaiinewsnetwork.com/2019/07/13/exploring-timeline-leading-up-conflict-mauna-kea/>

⁷ <https://www.hawaiinewsnetwork.com/2019/07/13/exploring-timeline-leading-up-conflict-mauna-kea/>

⁸ <https://maunakeaawarenessdaydotorg.files.wordpress.com/2019/03/mauna-a-wacc84kea-faculty-and-staff-statement-long-version-jan-2019.pdf>

⁹ <http://www.maunakeaandtmt.org/tmt-process/>

¹⁰ <https://www.vox.com/identities/2019/7/24/20706930/mauna-kea-hawaii>

WHEREAS,

Pu’uhonua O Pu’uhuluhulu is a community-based effort to spread and educate people on kapu aloha, nonviolent demonstration, Hawaiian language and culture, and religious practices associated with Mauna Kea; and,

WHEREAS,

undergraduate students from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa had already registered for Fall 2019 courses months before the protests at Mauna Kea; and,

WHEREAS,

the conclusion of protests have no clear end in sight as of the start of the 2019 Fall semester; and,

WHEREAS,

on August 5, 2019, more than 80 faculty have signed up to offer courses at Mauna Kea during the fall semester in fields ranging from political science, Hawaiian studies and language, and ethnic studies to chemistry, math, and business; and,¹¹

WHEREAS,

the University of Hawaii administration will allow students to take courses offered by faculty remotely while protecting the Mauna through classes posted on the class availability or as directed reading projects; and,¹²

WHEREAS,

courses offered will follow policy and procedure outlined by the administration, maintaining a high standard of educational offerings to students; and,¹³

WHEREAS,

the educational opportunities available to undergraduate students include courses offered through day school and directed reading projects; and,

WHEREAS,

kia’i formed Pu’uhonua O Pu’uhuluhulu University on August 6, 2019 to provide a Hawaiian place of learning to those at Pu’uhonua O Pu’uhuluhulu, including undergraduate students; and,¹⁴

WHEREAS,

the public lecture series supported by Pu’uhonua O Pu’uhuluhulu University includes topics such as Hawaiian studies, art, science, and

¹¹ <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2019/08/06/list-uh-professors-offering-distance-classes-mauna-kea-grows/>; https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15MVemAQDq_-qszdrM5lduweDeo4CHV-69FpOo7yWZLE/htmlview

¹² Faculty and Staff Memo from Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy Donald Straney dated August 7, 2019

¹³ Faculty and Staff Memo from Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy Donald Straney dated August 7, 2019

¹⁴ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2019/08/uh-will-allow-students-to-earn-credit-while-protesting-tmt/>

history hosted by academics, community leaders, activists, students, etc., and;¹⁵

WHEREAS,

undergraduate students also have access to lecture series provided by Pu'uhonua O Pu'uhuluhulu University that may supplement coursework already a part of a student's degree program, and;¹⁶

WHEREAS,

UH Mānoa advertises and recognizes itself as a "Hawaiian place of learning" through its promotion as a leading research university in the Pacific and of programs relating to Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island Studies; and,¹⁷

BE IT RESOLVED,

the ASUH also encourages the right held by undergraduate students to expect and pursue a high quality education from the university as tuition and fee-paying students; and,

BE IT RESOLVED,

the ASUH recognizes the university must follow administrative rules, policy, and applicable federal and state laws; and,

BE IT RESOLVED,

the ASUH urges the UH administration to reexamine policies related to distance education and academic plans, requirements, and procedures that may impact undergraduate students studying on Mauna Kea; and,

BE IT RESOLVED,

the ASUH urges college deans across campus to start and facilitate dialogues with students and faculty regarding continuing education from Mauna Kea until the conflict is resolved; and,

BE IT RESOLVED,

the ASUH urges UH administration to reexamine how the university lives up to its reputation as a "Hawaiian place of learning" by

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,

the ASUH supports the continuation of educational opportunities for students who are on Mauna Kea through experiential learning, continued participation in courses offered online and on-campus, and independent research or creative projects; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution shall be sent to:

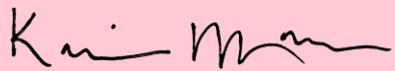
the University of Hawai'i Board of Regents,  Sir Jan Naoe Sullivan and Members, President and UHM Interim Chancellor David Lassner, Provost Michael Bruno, Interim Vice Chancellor for Students Lori Ideta, the Graduate Student Organization, Pu'uhonua O Pu'uhuluhulu, Civil Beat, Hawaii Star-Advertiser, and Ka Leo O Hawai'i.

¹⁵ https://www.instagram.com/p/B2SEwsGjR0C/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

¹⁶ <https://www.puuhuluhulu.com/learn/university>

¹⁷ <http://www.uhm.hawaii.edu/about/>

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