

Maunakea Management Board

Written Testimony

August 3, 2021



Fwd: Hoku Kea

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To: MKMB-testimony <mkmb-testimony-grp@hawaii.edu>

Mon, Aug 2, 2021 at 9:45 AM

Subject: Hoku Kea

Testimony AGAINST removal of Hoku Kea.

The email below to Joy Yoshina and Dr. Gergory Chun forms my testimony AGAINST removal of Hoku Kea from Mauna Kea.

As you know we have spent the best part of 31 years plying Mauna Kea both as a Commercial Operator and as the Transport Arm of the local Hilo Cultural groups that need transport to the Summit of Mauna Kea specially for Kupuna..

In this position we of course are aware of the great wash of opinions from all sides,

However if there is one issue that leaves me personally beggared beyond all others it is the Group Sacrifice of Hoku Kea when NOT ONE GROUP is calling for it... in fact as a local cultural icon stated... Hoku Kea is probably the ONE thing everyone agrees should not be sacrificed.

Why is it being swept up in a futile attempt to appease Cultural Practitioners when it is not called for.

With all due respect to the eminence of some of the supporters of maintaining Hoku Kea in place as a sort of bargaining chip against the permitting and construction of a new Teaching Telescope at Hale Pohaku....I say with all due regard for said Emminances....Good Luck.

The array of Protesters against any more telescopes anywhere, with powder dry waiting to see the whites of your eyes, is equal and the same as for TMT.

The location of Hoku Kea can never be matched and with miniaturization of adaptive optics and other advances in observation power Hoku Kea in the future could literally take its place with Keck and Gemini in terms of scientific accomplishment.

There is also a growing community of linked smaller telescopes around the world that are combining observation power to create a network larger than VLBA.

We clearly remember 20 years ago all the "Reasons" why joint observation could not be made by linking the Big Telescopes on Mauna kea and now it is done routinely.

Trust me there will be a Circular Firing squad of all those involved in this knee jerk decision when the future uses of that site become obvious and instead you have nothing, or a telescope in a very marginal location.

We GO from the summit to Hale Pohaku and the VIS almost every day and there is frequent impact on viewing at Hale Pohaku by adverse weather.

We have also heard the argument that much of what a teaching telescope does is teach operations and viewing is secondary.

In this case you just need a mockup in Hilo and let the world wide astronomy community know you have a small dome available on Mauna Kea for a cutting edge Telescope...Let Elon Musk or Jeff Bezos know and we might get something extraordinary.

Doug Arnott

Doug A.

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