TO: State of Hawaii Land Use Commission  
P.O. Box 2359  
Honolulu, HI 96804

FROM: Lehua Kaulukukui, Kumu Hula & Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT OF Petition of Kuʻulei Higashi Kanahele and Ahiena Kanahele for a Declaration Order Concerning the invalid classification of the de facto and improper industrial use precinct on approximately 525 acres of State Land use Conservation District Lands located in Mauna Kea and Hilo, County of Hawaiʻi, Tax Map Key (TMK) No. (3) 4-4-015:009

Date: October 15, 2019

I am submitting my written testimony in SUPPORT of Mr. and Mrs. Kanahele’s Petition for Declaratory Orders and ask that you grant the conditions of this Petition.

According to the Merriam Webster dictionary, the definition of Conservation:

Definition of conservation
1: a careful preservation and protection of something, especially: planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect

Definition of conserve
transitive verb
1: to keep in a safe or sound state especially: to avoid wasteful or destructive use of

In my observation, the above definition is exactly what our kupuna and kiaʻi are standing for. To prevent further exploitation, destruction, and neglect of our sacred mauna. Yes, our mauna is sacred. Our chants and moʻolelo tell us so and so it is. Just like you and me, our mauna has a genealogy. From the Kumulipo, our sacred chant of creation:

- O hanau ka mauna a Kea
- ‘Opū’u a’e ka mauna a Kea
- ‘O Wakea ke kane,
- ‘O Papawalino’u ka wahine
- Hanau Ho’ohoku he wahine
- Hanau Haloa he ali‘i
- Hanau ka mauna
- He keiki mauna na Kea

Born of Kea (Wakea) was the mountain
The mountain budded forth
Wakea is the husband
Papawalino’u is the wife
Born was Ho’ohoku, a woman
Born was Haloa, a chief
Born was the mountain
A mountain child of Kea

My question is, what were the criteria that qualified this TMK to be designated as zoned Conservation to begin with? A sensitive and unique ecosystem? Sensitive and unique species? The only Hawaiian volcano with distinct evidence of glaciation? The role that our mauna plays in the hydrolic cycles for Hawaii island, for the Hawaiian archipelago and for the world? The only alpine lake in the Hawaiian chain? The numerous archaeological sites? A pristine environment? The answer is an unequivocal YES to all of the items listed and then some.

The State of Hawaii cannot and should not change laws, definitions, and mission statements just to fit the needs of foreign desires. The bottom line is this: The top of Mauna Kea, the TMK of which we speak, is ZONED CONSERVATION. That is the bottom line. Thirteen (13) telescopes situated in an area that is zoned Conservation is an atrocity and a blatant violation of your own land use laws.

Let us return to the true meaning of Conservation for what it was intended.

Therefore, I humbly ask for your support to grant Mr. & Mrs. Kanahele petition for a Declaration Order Concerning the invalid classification of the de facto and improper industrial use precinct.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide and submit written testimony.

Respectfully,

Lehua Kaulukukui, Kumu Hula & Native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioner and Beneficiary