



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kia'i Support Access to Maunakea Summit for Observatory Technicians and Cultural Practitioners

Pu'uhonua o Pu'uhuluhulu

July 23, 2019

Aloha kākou,

Today, the kia'i standing in protection of Maunakea learned that one of the observatories has a critical issue they need to address on the summit and would like to extend our support to providing access to the facility in need.

Employees of the Maunakea Observatories, which represents all the existing telescopes on the summit, have not accessed the summit since July 16, when their officials voluntarily and preemptively pulled all their employees from the mountain. While we respect their decision to leave their facilities on Maunakea and continue their work from elsewhere, we would like to make it clear that the choice to cease operations on the summit was theirs and theirs alone.

The kia'i remain steadfast in their commitment to prevent the further desecration of the mountain through the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope. We reaffirm that have always been willing to ensure mutual access to the summit for cultural protocols as well as ongoing telescope operations. In exchange, we have simply asked that one vehicle of kia'i be allowed to the summit each day for cultural and religious protocols as is our constitutionally protected right.

To be clear, it is not the kia'i nor anyone from the observatories who are refusing this request. It is Governor Ige. We urge Governor Ige to agree to our simple request and resolve the issue now for the benefit of all.

We will be holding a press conference behind the kūpuna tent near the DOCARE checkpoint at 11:45am. Media availability later today.

Media Contacts:

Kaho'okahi Kanuha — (808) 936-4249, kahookahi@gmail.com

'Ilima Long — (808) 781-8423, kamakaokailima@gmail.com