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The Honorable David Ige  
Governor, State of Hawaii  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Dear Governor Ige,

The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, the only national labor organization representing the needs of 660,000 AAPI workers across the country, urges you to withdraw your support for the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) atop Mauna Kea.

As an AAPI organization representing hundreds of unions affiliated with the AFL-CIO, we honor and respect the right of Native Hawaiians to determine the fate of ceded lands with great cultural and religious significance.

Native Hawaiians have voiced their overwhelming opposition to the construction of TMT atop Mauna Kea, which is home to several Hawaiian deities, including Wākea, Papahānaumoku, and Poli‘ahu. On July 17th, 38 Native Hawaiian kupuna, or elders, were arrested during peaceful demonstrations to protect their sacred land.

We firmly ask you, Governor Ige, to use restraint in declaring a state of emergency to expedite the building of the Thirty Meter Telescope. An emergency proclamation should be used to protect residents’ safety, not disperse demonstrators exercising their right to assemble peacefully.

Therefore, it is the stance of this organization that the construction of this telescope would result in the desecration of this sacred cultural site and its original Native Hawaiian overseers. We urge you to explore alternative locations for this project that do not violate the sovereignty of AAPI members or their culture.

Sincerely,

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)  
APALA Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Caucus  
APALA Hawaii chapter  
APALA Alameda chapter  
APALA Illinois chapter  
APALA Inland Empire chapter  
APALA Los Angeles chapter

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