



**KEALAMĀKIA FOUNDATION**

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7 Apelila (Apr.) 2015

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

**Aloha nō ‘oe, e ka mea hanohano Stephen Harper, ke Kuhina Nui o Kanada:  
Greetings to you, the Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, the Prime Minister of Canada:**

It is certainly my deep honor and distinct privilege to write to you, Mr. Harper, in regards to the involvement of your beloved nation of Canada in the construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope at Maunakea, on my home island of Hawai‘i.

As you may be aware, many people – regardless of ethnicity, nationality, age, gender, religion, creed, etc. – have gathered at Maunakea and throughout Hawai‘i to protest the unlawful construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope.

Our organization joins our fellow citizens and friends throughout the world in supporting those who are standing up with courage and determination to protect and defend Maunakea, urging leaders throughout Hawai‘i, the United States, and our international allies to reconsider their involvement and immediately stop construction of this eyesore. As of the date of this letter, the Honorable David Ige, Governor of the State of Hawai‘i, has ordered a week-long moratorium to stop construction of the TMT.

The Thirty Meter Telescope is a clear violation of our constitutionally protected rights as well as international law. By providing support to this project, you become a party to those violations.

Hawaiians have been taught the importance of caring for the land and sea. And, for generations, our people have had to fight to maintain our cultural, spiritual, and historical rights to properly steward our lands, waters, and other natural resources. Unfortunately, the United States and its institutions, such as the State of Hawai‘i, do not have a good track record in supporting the constitutional rights of its own indigenous peoples, or the native peoples of the Hawaiian Islands. Instead, it continues to abuse our natural resources in favor of its own economic interests.

As a country of beautiful, natural resources, as well as a strong commitment to the peoples of your First Nations, we know you understand well the importance of issues such as these. And, we hope, with your understanding, that you would reconsider the financial involvement of the Canadian government, as well as your educational and scientific community, in this project.

Our opposition to the TMT should not be construed as opposition to scientific progress. Our ancestors navigated thousands of miles of Pacific Ocean, and came to these lands using the very heavens the scientific community wishes to gaze into with the TMT. This, however, is a fight to prevent the further desecration of our beloved and sacred temple, Maunakea.

The whole process up until this point has been flawed. And, the voices of the people have not been heard. Our calls for consultation and for the respect of our culture and spirituality have been ignored once again, for economic benefit. We believe strongly, however, that the minimal economic benefit of the TMT can never outweigh the benefit that comes from preserving the natural beauty and sanctity of Maunakea and other significant places for future generations.

Prime Minister, we understand your busy schedule as your government works to formulate a budget and address the issues that face the Canadian people; and, as you prepare for the upcoming election in August. As such, we thank you sincerely for taking the time to read our letter and hear a brief summary of our concerns. We hope that you will take them into consideration.

Please accept our prayers and warmest best wishes to you, Mrs. Harper, Benjamin and Rachel, for happiness and prosperity in your future. May God bless the nation of Canada and its people! And, may God save Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth III!

With sincerity and humility,  
'O wau iho nō, me ke aloha pumehana,

  
The Rev. Wryen K. C. Kiwaha, CM  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Should you submit a reply, please address it to:

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