

To: Gary Gill  
Deputy Director  
Department of Health Administration  
1250 Punch Bowl Street  
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From: Kealoha Pisciotta  
Hawai'i Island Burial Council/Mauna Kea Anaina Hou  
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(808) 934-7668  
[kealohap@aloha.net](mailto:kealohap@aloha.net)

Date: 24 April 2001

RE: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration Draft Environmental Assessment for the Outrigger Telescopes Project

Aloha Gary,

Enclosed you will find the Royal Order of Kamehameha I/Mauna Kea Anaina Hou, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Hawai'i Island Burial Council's positions On the National Aeronautics and space Administration (NASA) Draft Environmental Assessment for the Outrigger Telescope Project proposed for Mauna Kea. Also included is a recent L.A. Times article for your review and record.

I am a member of both the Hawai'i Island Burial Council and the Mauna Kea Anaina Hou.

As you may know the Royal Order of Kamehameha, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Hawai'i Island Burial Council are currently engaged in the Section 106 Consultations pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act with the NASA.


The enclosed information includes information regarding the Wekiu bug mitigation plans proposed by NASA and sections on the hydrology, hazardous materials and solid waste containment systems that we have particular concerns over. In particular the use of large amounts of elemental mercury used by the observatories on Mauna Kea.

The Hawaiian Community has battled with this issue of further development for years now. This is a very volatile issue, and the University of Hawai'i's Master Plan did NOT receive support from the broader community during its passage nor does it have the support from the larger community now.

The Hawaiian people are not arguing against astronomy, but rather development Without proper controls to protect the cultural and environmental resources of Mauna Kea, and further to question how much more development the mountain can actually accommodate. The Section 106 Consultations that are currently underway are actually the first in the history of development on Mauna Kea since 1968. The majority of construction of the observatories was completed without any environmental review. Almost all of the observatories were built riding on the 1983 Master Plan/draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), even when federal monies were spent. We believe that at a minimum a federal EIS should be conducted.

We have been in contact with Mr. Leslie Au in the Hazardous Evaluation department. He provided us with useful information', and had agreed to look further into the situation of the mercury and other hazardous material and any precautions used by the observatories regarding these materials. I have not heard back from him yet. I understand that you all are very busy.

I hope, you find this information useful, and can help us to work together, to protect, our 'aina for all the future generations of Hawai'i Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. We understand that you are very busy and we appreciate your time and any assistance or guidance you can provide.

**Aloha ame Malama Pono,**  
  
**Kealoha Pisciotta**

To: Jeyan Phirugnanam  
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Date: 25 April 2001

RE: Mauna Kea, Hawai'i

Aloha Jeyan,

Enclosed you will find the Royal Order of Kamehameha I/Mauna Kea Anaina Hou, Off of Hawaiian Affairs and the Hawai'i Island Burial Council positions on the NASA Draft Environmental Assessment for the Outrigger Telescopes Project. Also included is a L.A. Times article recently published for your review and record. Per our discussion you will find information regarding the Wekiu bug mitigation plans proposed by NASA and sections on the hydrology, hazardous materials and solid waste containment systems that we have particular concerns over. We hope you find this information helpful. I would like to thank you for all of your assistance and your time. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

I have also provided copies of the materials for Lesile Au. Mahalo again.

Aloha ame Malama Pono.

Kealoha Pisciotta  
