

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION OF THE UC'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRTY-METER TELESCOPE ON MAUNA KEA AND
DEMAND FOR SUPPORT INTO INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, as a land grant institution, UCLA is a product of colonization and removal of local Indigenous communities, which consist of the Gabrieleño, Tongva, and Kizh, and Fernandeño Tataviam Nations;

WHEREAS, we stand in solidarity with UCLA's Pacific Islands' Student Association (PISA), American Indian Student Association (AISA), American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES), and the UC Student Association (UCSA)'s Students Enacting Environmental Defense (SEED) Campaign;

WHEREAS, PISA, AISA, AISES, and UCSA SEED support the Indigenous community of Hawai'i's petition against the construction of the TMT on Mauna Kea;¹

WHEREAS, the UCSA SEED campaign is the product of the activism from the #UCDivestTMT movement; as a result, analogous campaigns have been launched at each UC campus;

WHEREAS, Mauna Kea is an extremely ancient, dormant volcano in Hawai'i. It is the highest mountain on Earth (counting its base that is under sea level to peak);

WHEREAS, The 11,288-acre Mauna Kea Science Reserve (MKSR) has been identified as having 263 historical sites (including shrines and burial sites);

WHEREAS, the MKSR is a significantly important cultural site that is both the burial ground and embodiment of the most sacred ancestors (such as NaAli'i and Kahuna who were high ranking chiefs and priests) where prayers, rituals, and ceremonies are conducted;²

WHEREAS, 90% of its range has already been destroyed by observatory development and was also designated a National Natural Landmark, in which the National Park Service recognizes it as the "most majestic expression of shield volcanism in the Hawaiian Archipelago, if not the world."³

¹ <https://www.change.org/p/gordon-and-betty-moore-foundation-no-construction-of-the-tmt-telescope-on-mauna-kea>

² <https://sacredland.org/mauna-kea-united-states/>

³ <https://sacredland.org/mauna-kea-united-states/>

WHEREAS, Most of these sites on Mauna Kea are protected, including: Mauna Kea Summit Region Historic District, within & next to Mauna Kea Ice Age Natural Area Reserve (NAR), and State Historic Properties;⁴

WHEREAS, Historically, the University of Hawaii has used the site for astronomical research, and there have been several toxic oil spills, including mercury, due to the scientific facilities mis-management;

WHEREAS, several Native Hawaiian communities on/near Mauna Kea site have been affected by these environmental hazards and mismanagement, leading to:

- Displacing the Wēkiu bug habitat, a rare insect only found in Hawaii's high elevation habitat. It has been off the endangered species list since 2011;
- Displacing of the alpine stone desert lava flow habitat;
- Introduction of invasive species
- Vehicles damaging fauna;⁵

WHEREAS, the most recent publicly-reported oil spill in Mauna Kea was at Keck facility on Mauna Kea in 2018, but a recent occurrence happened earlier in 2023;⁶

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Supreme Court stopped TMT construction in 2015, but TMT has recently partnered with The University of California and is seeking funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for two other telescope projects, and have announced they are going to move forward with construction if/when they can get clearance.⁷

WHEREAS, as of fall 2018, only 0.5% of University of California (UC) undergraduates identified as Native American;

WHEREAS, according to UCLA's Common Data Set 2022-2023, 56 students identify as Pacific Islander, about 0.17%, out of 32,423 students at UCLA;⁸

WHEREAS, “the UC cannot, in its chosen ignorance to Indigenous peoples of both California and Hawai‘i, claim to be an inclusive, diverse, or safe place of learning nor can it claim to be an acceptable environment for Indigenous students;”⁹

⁴ <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/files/2013/08/2010-05-08-HA-FEIS-Thirty-Meter-Telescope-Vol1.pdf>

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ <https://www.hawaii.edu/news/2023/01/21/uh-investigates-coolant-leak-maunakea-telescope/>

⁷ <https://beta.nsf.gov/funding/environmental-compliance/thirty-meter-telescope>

⁸ <https://apb.ucla.edu/campus-statistics/common-data-set>

⁹ https://www.protectmaunakea.net/_files/ugd/5ff77e_036a10a8c6b94d01ad4fd9e384d3bfb7.pdf

WHEREAS, divesting from the TMT is a good first step that the “UC system can take to create a campus climate and community that addresses these continued settler colonial violences”;¹⁰

WHEREAS, that UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) has previously passed resolutions with similar goals, including:

- A Resolution Calling for the UC to Divest from War in 2020-2021¹¹
- A Resolution to Divest from the Republic of Turkey to End the Perpetuation of the Armenian Genocide in 2014-2015;¹²
- A Resolution to Divest from Companies Engaged in Violence Against Palestinians in 2014-2015;¹³
- A Resolution to Divest from Companies that Violate Palestinian Human Rights in 2013-2014;¹⁴
- A Resolution to Divest Undergraduate Students Association Council and UC Los Angeles Finances from Corporations Profiting from the Prison Industrial Complex in 2013-2014;¹⁵
- A Resolution in Support of Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies in 2013-2014;¹⁶

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council (USAC) urges the UC fiscal agents and its scientific community to immediately divest from TMT-NSF projects and any further proposals or funding towards the degradation of valuable cultural and environmental sites;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that UCLA USAC urges the UC fiscal agents and its scientific communities to discontinue their participation in the construction of the TMT and the production of knowledge at the expense of Indigenous lands and peoples;

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹

<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2021.A%20Resolution%20Calling%20for%20the%20UC%20to%20Divest%20from%20War.pdf>

¹²

<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2015.A%20Resolution%20to%20Divest%20from%20the%20Republic%20of%20Turkey%20to%20End%20the%20Perpetuation%20of%20the%20Armenian%20Genocide.pdf>

¹³

<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2015.A%20Resolution%20to%20Divest%20from%20Companies%20Engaged%20in%20Violence%20Against%20Palestinians.pdf>

¹⁴

<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2014.A%20Resolution%20to%20Divest%20from%20Companies%20that%20Violate%20Palestinian%20Human%20Rights.pdf>

¹⁵

<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2014.A%20Resolution%20to%20Divest%20Undergraduate%20Students%20Association%20Council%20and%20UC%20Los%20Angeles%20Finances%20from%20Corporations%20Profiting%20from%20the%20Prison%20Industrial%20Complex.pdf>

¹⁶

<https://usac.ucla.edu/docs/resolution.2014.A%20Resolution%20in%20Support%20of%20Divestment%20from%20Fossil%20Fuel%20Companies.pdf>

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that UCLA USAC urges UC fiscal agents and its scientific communities to withdraw from its “member partnership” status with TMT & NSF project that is constructing telescopes on sacred Indigenous lands;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that UCLA USAC urges UC fiscal agents and its scientific communities to then reinvest in the reparation of Indigenous communities, including those belonging to:

- Native Hawaiian communities on/near Mauna Kea site
- Communities that have been displaced by the UC system, including the preservation of sacred sites and land restoration.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that UCLA USAC urges UC fiscal agents and its scientific communities to additionally reinvest in the advancement of Indigenous communities by:

- Funding Educational Programs for AI/AN & Pacific Islander students, such as AISES.
- Funding scholarship opportunities specifically for Pacific Islander and Native Students
- Providing access to culturally relevant mental health resources & healing spaces
- Investing in sacred site preservation efforts local to UCLA, including Los Cerritos Wetlands, Ballona Wetlands, and Kuruvungna Springs
- Provide education and awareness to local Indigenous communities and support their efforts in self-determination