



25 September 2019

To whom it may concern—

The University of California system is only possible due to the exploitation of indigenous land. While the UC may make an occasional nod towards this reality in the form of land acknowledgements or programs targeting indigneous students, there have not been the kind of substantive steps necessary for meaningful reparations. In fact, the continued support of the University of California for projects such as the Thirty Meter Telescope is troubling given the demands of local leaders and native activists—known as Kia'i (protectors) of the Mountain.

The Kia'i have been engaging in direct protest, appealing to the State of Hawaii, and urging consideration of Kanaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) voices against this and similar projects for decades. Despite that, thirteen telescopes have been constructed on their sacred land. Breaking ground on an additional, 18-story, 8 acre observatory would desecrate land sacred to the Kanaka Maoli, devastate the natural beauty of the local ecosystem, and risk damaging aquifers that support the local community. These concerns have been met by a harsh crackdown by police that has resulted in the arrest of thirty-three kupuna (Kanaka Maoli elders).

It is unacceptable that an institution that claims to pride itself on respecting indigenous voices and uplifting students from diverse backgrounds would continue to support a project against the wishes of the land's stewards, who have spent thousands of years caring for the Mauna. We demand the University withdraw financial support from the project and that those UC faculty and staff members who sit on the project's Board of Governors and Science Advisory Committee (SAC) speak out against the exploitation of Mauna Kea. We further urge students to educate themselves on the situation and support the petition calling for the Thirty Meter Telescope's construction to be halted.

Signed,

Varsha Sarveshwar, UCSA President, UC Berkeley ASUC EAVP

Tiger Huang, UCSA Chief Financial Officer, UC San Diego, EVP

Dashay Richmond, UCSA Chair, UC Irvine EVP

Lauren Woo, UCSA Vice Chair, UC Santa Cruz EVP

Johana Guerra Martinez, UC Los Angeles EVP

Daevionne Beasley, UC Santa Barbara EVP

Luis Huerta, UC Riverside VPEA

Lizeth Torres, UCSA University Affairs Chair, UC Merced EVP

Adam Hatefi, UCSA Campaign Chair, UC Davis EAVP