Proposed ATST Project SDEIS Public Hearing

Group Memory by Facilitator Dee Dee Letts June 3, 2009, Cameron Center, Wailuku, HI

(NOTE, added to Group Memory by NSF: These notes were opinions made by the participating consulting parties and should not be considered to contain 100% accurate facts.)

After welcomes and short presentations the meeting began with clarifying questions prior to the start of the public comments.

Clarifying questions:

Q: Can we get a date for the final decision?

A: Hard to pinpoint exactly – we have the current comment period then the finalization of the EIS document and a 30 day cooling off period – most likely looking at the late third early fourth quarter of this year.

Q: Are there specific stimulus monies for this project?

A: Yes \$146 million has been set aside for the ATST project in the recovery act – the total cost is \$400 million.

Q: About how much has been spent on planning thus far?

A: About \$23.5 million

Q: Has the person making the final decision here tonight or have they been at any of the meetings?

A: Final decision maker is the head of the National Science Foundation who is appointed by the President – he has not been present and he has been kept in the loop with frequent and complete briefing and he has access to all the information on these hearing and meetings including the transcripts.

There being no more clarifying questions the meeting moved on to the public comment period. What follows is intended to capture the key points that were made by those speaking as they stated them a full transcript of the meeting was made and will be available when transcribed on the website.

- This project is an opportunity for our community and our children to be on the cutting edge of technology
- I support the project the construction, the operation and the removal when its life span is over
- I support the project and the boost it will give our economy I am with the carpenter's union and currently 50% of our members are out of work – this project will provide jobs that mean that families will be able to pay rent and feed their children

- I respect the diverse opinions on this topic
- It is part of our tradition to teach about the stars and this is a continuation of that tradition
- This project will provide a much needed economic boost to Maui
- I am against the telescope construction it is not sustainable and is short sighted
- I am not against science and feel it is important but not this project in this place
- There are two alternative sights and either of those would be appropriate for this project
- The economic arguments made here tonight are similar to plantation times
- We need the dollars to go to sustainability fix what we have instead of constantly expanding to build something new
- I represent the Maui Hotel Association and we support the project and the jobs and visitors it will bring
- It will be an attraction for scientists and visitors
- I am against the project as it will cause destruction of sacred land as a teacher I appreciate learning and opportunities to improve lives but not this project in this place if you look at the long term it is not appropriate but there is a lot of pressure to get this project through and built
- This type of growth is not sustainable need to look at bottom line for the protection of our culture
- I am opposed to any more construction on site concerned about lack of candor and transparency in the SDEIS – says this site the only one when in 2004 NASA said each site was unique in its qualities and would work
- They picked this site and redesigned the project so it would only work at this site
- They say Big Bear would not work as it fails in "seeing" yet a report I have here says it has pristine visibility almost all the time
- This project effects the sacredness of Haleakala you cannot mitigate spirituality
- Soil digging and removal is a desecration native Hawaiian practitioners will lose the ability to practice their traditions
- The view planes that are important to these practices will be destroyed
- The sense of place and aloha will be compromised by building this project this is
 just one more in a long line of broken promises around spiritual and cultural issues
- No school or program or anything else can mitigate what we as a culture will lose
- I invite you into the space of building it somewhere else
- I am speaking for those that have past generations that would oppose this project
- Sustainability if you remove the sust and the bility you have `aina our ancestors looked up at and used the heavens to navigate and come to this land but they learned when to stop looking up and look down at the `aina and do something about remaining sustainable
- These are crown lands and the Supreme Court has said that they must be dealt with in native courts
- The scientific community have taken care of and respected the summit they have cleaned and restored areas this project as an example they have made the footprint on the mountain smaller which is why it is a little taller
- Against this project it is unfortunate that it cannot stand on its own merits but has to go to the unions and the hotel industry for support

- If we learned and practiced what our ancestors knew we would be far ahead
- It is arrogant that you feel your science is more important than our past
- Ancestors got here from Tahiti by just looking at the sky don't need this project
- Don't see how this project will benefit us don't build it
- Why should we spend our time looking at the sun when the earth and our environment is crumbling around us
- Our ancestors lived 3,000 years of sustainability it only got screwed up when foreigners came
- Tourism is an unsustainable business
- To begin to mitigate the impacts on the site we must stop all construction on the site
- Nature can reclaim the site if we do not continue to build there will be a healing phase once the building is stopped – this project does not need to be build here – the money can be spent on the project somewhere else
- A report issued in 2003 states that we need to stop building on the summit this report is not cited in the SDEIS
- This is ceded land and proper ownership has not been addressed
- This project can and should be build elsewhere
- Landownership in the SDEIS it states that this area was set aside for UH for astrological research – they own the TMK not the land this is crown land and ownership must be settled as such according to the Supreme Court – please address this issue in your document
- I feel we were not annexed and we are not a state
- I have not heard strong environmental objections to the project tonight have heard many cultural issues which must be respected and addressed
- I repeat this is not a sustainable project environmentally or any other way
- The spiritual connection with the 'aina is our environment
- Everything for us comes from here (points to heart) not the head or the wallet
- Our destiny is to keep aloha and the spirit of our culture
- I ask everyone in the audience to think of one place on earth that is so special you
 would protect it from anything now think of having this project take place there –
 his is how we feel it is a deep assault on our `aina
- Want to know more about how you will address the toxic waste issue
- Define environment for us it includes not just the `aina but ohana and mana`o it is part of our being – everything we said tonight is about the environment
- What about the construction impacts and noise
- I see this as a church to science build on someone else's sacred place
- Look at building this project somewhere else
- The environment is our culture 14 stories is an impact our sacred mountain is being stolen from us
- I was on the General Plan Advisory Committee of 25 people and many of us felt that enough is enough on Haleakala and that the building must stop
- We need to protect the spiritual presence of the area
- This is a place to connect with a greater force
- Move the project somewhere else
- This project is a direct injury to our temple