Proposed ATST Project SDEIS Public Hearing

Group Memory by Facilitator Dee Dee Letts June 4, 2009, Hannibal Tavares Community Center, Pukalani, 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: Do you plan to publish the EIS at the end of July?

A: That is the plan want to take it to the NSF Board in August

Q: Will all the testimony from all of the hearings over the years be in the final EIS?

A: Yes

O: Who makes the final decision?

A: First the NSF Board will review and make a recommendation to the Director who will make the final decision

Q: Is this also a state Chapter 343 document?

A: Yes

Q: Who approves the document for the State?

A: Governor has final acceptance

Q: Has 146 billion dollars been set aside from stimulus funding for this project

A: Yes

Q: What is the Role of the UH Board of Regents?

A: They must approve the lease

Q: I do not believe that the state Chapter 343 law has been followed – you need to respond individually to each comment that was made in writing to the commenter

A: We checked with OEQC and were told that answering all the comments in the final EIS is acceptable

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.

Comments:

- Would like to see a discussion of how many local jobs will be created with the stimulus funds for both the building phase and permanent operations phase
- There was a previous instance in which we were promised that rock (pohaku)
 would not be removed from the summit but it was this leads us to not trust you
- Want to share that we the unions had a meeting today and were assured that local responsible contractors will be hired to build this project
- I hope it is built because of our economy it will provide jobs to support our families
- I am a union member and I respect the land if we do something wrong when we are building I am willing to be corrected
- The SDEIS does not address Environmental Justice (EJ) as an adverse impact on Hawaiian practitioners and culture – these are defining points of EJ and they are totally ignored in this document.
- EPA notes loss of cultural and religious sites constitutes an EJ issue especially when these losses impact cultural practices
- Western contact was not kind to Hawaiians our greatest need is sustainability with jobs that last more than a construction phase
- Project does not meet the mission of NSF to share science with the world this project could do that if developed jointly somewhere else in the world
- I support science in the schools but this project needs to be build somewhere else
- Those of you that think you will get construction jobs get it in writing before you believe it
- Why should we study the sun we have no control over it do not put this beast on our mountain
- Totally against the project
- I oppose this project
- Everything has been done illegally I do not want to continue to take this crap
- Need sustainability we had it as a culture your system wiped it out plantations came – not everything is about money
- I work with kids and take kids to the summit I see this as a sacred site
- These projects and companies want to hire local employees because they are connected to this place as mainland folks are not – mainlanders come and leave in a couple of years – so there is incentive for them to hire locally if persons with the proper training and education are available
- This project is contained and it would be best to train local people for the jobs
- My advice to NSF is to train so they can hire locally for all jobs
- I support the project
- I am totally against it it is an eyesore
- I came here to study the sun and this is the best place to do it
- This is the only place that this telescope can optimally do what it can do need to build it here
- Need to study the rhythm of the sun for our kids and grandkids need to look at phases – civilizations come and go based on the sun
- Tired of projects being force fed to us this should not be built

- I had been on the mountain for years now I cannot do my practices or bring kupuna to the mountain – they say we make dust that is bad for the telescopes – make a way for us to come and continue our practices and values
- Make opportunities at MCC for us so that we can work up there
- Learned my respect for the `aina from my mentors other operating engineers of Hawaiian ancestry – they run the heavy equipment and build these types of facilities and we have respect – the new generation is about money – this type of project is all about respect
- We are out of work and need the employment
- All Hawaiians are astronomers it is how they got here
- Support building the telescope
- Many scientists are currently working with MCC to develop curriculum
- I feel that you need to respond to each comment letter individually or you have not complied with Chapter 343 - I would not trust the answer you got from OEQC
- Why does this telescope need to be on the summit why can't you move it over outside of the summit - lower down on the slope
- Security concerns are not adequately covered in the SDEIS
- Need a cumulative impact statement for the mountain
- Hope the park continues to have and voice its concerns about this project
- We have created a gated community for scientist on the mountain when I grew up you could go to the top hike down and hunt in the forest
- I am not anti-science but am against a project when all the questions are not answered as is the case here
- There are no Hawaiians working up there now
- I disagree with the project at the present stage
- We need to support this kind of basic science where it will lead we do not know
- The Board that makes the decision on this project should have a Native Hawaiian (Kanaka Maoli) on it not just consultation
- Need to change the process to include us
- Strong opposition to project
- Process is flawed does not work "is not our dance" and as much as we try to participate no one will embrace our dance
- SDEIS did not address my questions on the land title
- You need to get educated on history before you come to us
- Decision making ignores our input it takes place 5,000 miles away
- The bright white color of the telescope is intrusive
- Want a point by point response to my questions sent to me as required by Chapter
 343
- You need to look at the Upcountry plan this project is not compatible with the 35 foot height limit in the plan
- There is no master plan for the summit only the UH 18 acres
- This project would not receive a CDUA permit from DLNR because of the 35 foot height limit in the upcountry plan
- Stimulus dollars should be used for roads and housing this is a better use
- I asked the Air Force if we would be a number one or two target if attacked and they said they would not answer the question for national security reasons

- I hope the park opposes this it is not in line with their mission
- Put it on someone else's sacred mountain how about Mount Rushmore
- We as Native Hawaiians are in conflict because this system is imposed on us and does not have roots in or respect our cultural heritage
- We need different knowledge for our students experiential with undisturbed nature – need to instill a love for this place
- The National Park Mission was quoted to show that this use is not compatible
- Stimulus money should be used for other purposes
- Opposed to building this structure on our sacred mountain
- This project effects the identity and culture of a people
- The construction of this project is an act of random desecration
- The mountain is our life and our breath
- Hawaiian people never gave consent to ownership of the mountain this is a taking
- Want help teaching students about traditions
- I still feel that this project is an opportunity for the next generation
- Science is not always bad
- The telescope takes lots of energy requires the burning of fossil fuels why are they not looking at powering it with solar energy
- Construction will have severe impacts on burrowing birds and other species
- Ua mau ke ea O ka `aina I ka pono The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness

There were no further comments the meeting was recessed at 9:50 and adjourned at 10:00 PM