



## Finding a way forward on Mauna Kea, TMT

**F**ew issues in recent memory have been more controversial for Hawai'i than the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) project. As people weigh in on all sides, Governor Ige continues to believe that respect for Mauna Kea can be reconciled with astronomy and that Native Hawaiian culture and modern science can work together to benefit the whole community. This edition provides more perspectives on the TMT project and efforts like the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center, which is setting an example for the future.

**Q. What do you see as the way forward to resolve this issue peacefully?**

**A.** From the most recent polls, we know the majority of people in the islands support the Thirty Meter Telescope project for the benefits it can provide the state and the world. After 10 years of legal review and thousands of pages of documents and testimony from all sides, it has been determined the project has the right to proceed, and as governor I'm obligated to enforce the law. It's important to know that TMT planners listened to community, cultural and environmental concerns and made changes where needed. This included relocating the telescope from the summit ridge and contributing to conservation of the area as well as STEM education. As the leader of this state, I want to work with protest leaders and others to come to a reasonable resolution that ensures safety and respects the law. We can achieve a better future for everyone when we work together.

**Q. What concerns you most about the current controversy?**

**A.** If the activists say there's no compromise, then it leaves the state with few options. We will enforce the law while making people aware of the facts that have been part of this decade-long legal process. A lot of misinformation is being circulated so we want to provide factual, accurate details so people can base their opinions on sound information rather than rumors. We encourage everyone's patience as we work to find a peaceful way forward that respects community concerns and deeply held feelings.

**Q. Your 10-point plan from 2015 proposed major improvements for Mauna Kea stewardship. Why did you feel that was needed?**

**A.** I thought the state needed to do a better job of managing the entire summit. Most of the elements of the plan are in motion and several are reflected in the findings affirmed by the Hawai'i Supreme Court. Included in the report approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources are 43 special conditions related to the environment, education, cultural practices and jobs for the TMT to be implemented. The university has been listening to concerns and has committed to taking down several existing telescopes. The fact is, even with the TMT, there will be less development on Mauna Kea than currently exists.

**Q. Mayor Harry Kim has said, "For us to go forward, we have to understand the whole issue of discontent, dating back to 1893" (when Queen Lili'uokalani abdicated the throne). Would you agree?**

**A.** Yes, and I would be the first to say that we have much more work to do to right the wrongs of the past. But we shouldn't discount the progress we've made as a community — decisive, corrective action to improve the lives of Native Hawaiians — ranging from the public Hawaiian immersion programs to the creation of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and record-high funding for the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. One of the protest leaders noted that I worked with Governor Waihee to establish the first Hawaiian immersion programs on O'ahu and Hawai'i island in 1987. It was clear to me then that saving the language was fundamental to saving the culture. I thought if our citizens could be fluent in Hawaiian and English, that would be the best of all worlds. Yes, some of those citizens are on the mauna now, but I still believe we can support both the Hawaiian culture and projects like the TMT.



# Findings and conditions for the TMT to proceed

From its initial site selection in 2009 to the notice to proceed in July 2019, the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) on Mauna Kea has undergone unprecedented legal and community scrutiny. The process involved numerous public hearings, court appeals, and, finally, a 2018 Hawai'i Supreme Court ruling that upheld a Conservation District Use Permit approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR).

After listening to stakeholders on all sides, TMT hearings officer and former Judge Riki May Amano issued a 305-page report in 2017 that included more than 40 conditions covering management, environmental, cultural, workforce and education concerns. These ranged from a "zero waste management" policy to mandatory cultural and natural resources training for employees and local STEM education funds, job training and hiring. **Here is a summary of some of the report's findings from BLNR:**

- **Environmental protection** - The TMT will not pollute groundwater, will not damage any historic sites, will not harm rare plants or animals, will not release toxic materials, and will not otherwise harm the environment.
- **Cultural protection** - The TMT site was not used for traditional and customary native Hawaiian practices conducted elsewhere on Mauna Kea, such as depositing *piko*, pilgrimages, or burials. The site is not on the summit ridge but rather 500 feet lower.
- **Ceremonial practices** - The TMT will not interfere with ceremonies or other spiritual practices. It cannot be seen from the actual summit and will not block views from the summit ridge of the rising sun, setting sun, or Haleakalā.
- **Support for both Hawaiian culture and science** - While some witnesses wanted more protection for Mauna Kea, others, including some Native Hawaiians, see TMT as a project that honors the mountain rather than injures it. They believe respect for Mauna Kea can be reconciled with modern astronomy.
- **Support for education, conservation** - TMT will contribute \$1 million a year for STEM education and has a sublease agreement committing \$300,000/yr. at first, increasing to \$1 million/yr. for Mauna Kea conservation.
- **Support for the local community and respect for cultural practices** - Astronomy directly supports about 1,000 jobs in Hawai'i. TMT will employ about 140 people. The conditions in the report are meant to ensure that the project lives up to its environmental commitments, that the educational fund will help the underserved members of the community, that TMT will train and hire local workers, and that the Native Hawaiian cultural presence at Hale Pohaku will be enhanced.



A rendering of the Thirty Meter Telescope project.

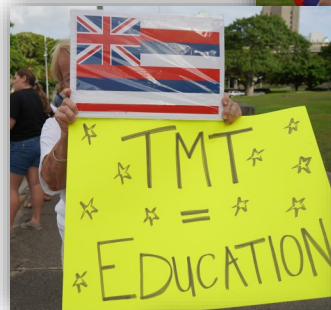
In 2014, the TMT project launched the **THINK fund (The Hawai'i Island New Knowledge)** to prepare students for STEM fields and become the workforce for higher-paying science and technology jobs. Since then, two foundations — Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) and Pauahi Foundation — have distributed more than \$5.1 million in THINK funds for student scholarships and grants on Hawai'i island. HCF reported reaching 20,000 students and 97 schools and nonprofits. Pauahi Foundation's focus has been on academic and science camp scholarships. All of those recipients are Native Hawaiian.

## The 'silent majority' speaks out

Among Native Hawaiian TMT supporters are a grandfather and his grandson who want to encourage others to show support for the project and astronomy in Hawai'i. The grandfather is Oliver Crowell, a Kamehameha Schools alumnus interviewed by KGMB's Hawaii News Now. Crowell said he knows of many Native Hawaiians who support TMT but are reluctant to speak out since the issue has become so personal.

According to the news report, Crowell said the state can't afford to pass up the educational benefits of the project. "Some of us who look back at our lives see the opportunities that lie ahead for young students today, what we never got. I wouldn't want them to miss out on that," he said.

Meanwhile, Crowell's grandson Cody wrote his own letter to Governor Ige and came to one Imua TMT rally with his family. In his letter, Cody wrote: "Please hear me as a young Hawaiian. I'm only 12 years old, but my heart feels like an ancient Hawaiian soul. I believe my ancestors would want the telescope for me, for our world. Why would we fight when we have the attention of the world. Now is our time to show we can unite. We can make a difference the world can follow. You made the world listen. Now make them see how intelligent we are, how we can work together."



(from top) The Long family join the Imua TMT rally. Pro-TMT rally organizers Samuel Wilder King II and Malia Martin. Famed Hōkūle'a navigator Chad Kalepa Baybayan has been a vocal advocate for the project and its advancement of astronomy and education.

# ‘Imiloa: Sharing Hawai‘i’s legacy of exploration

The **‘Imiloa Astronomy Center** in Hilo has been doing groundbreaking work to integrate modern science and indigenous culture since the center first opened in 2006. Recently, Hawaiian immersion students and teachers, working with ‘Imiloa, have garnered their own share of global attention. Their program aims **to make Hawai‘i the first place in the world** to weave indigenous practices into the process of officially naming astronomical discoveries — specifically those by telescopes on Maunakea and Haleakalā.

**It’s all part of ‘Imiloa’s big-picture mission to connect the scientific work being done on Maunakea with the language and culture of Hawai‘i.**

“‘Imiloa was founded on the idea of bringing culture and science together,” explains executive director Ka‘iu Kimura. “We were born from the confluence of parallel trends — the revitalization of Hawaiian language and culture and the understanding of the universe enabled by the Maunakea observatories. We are about enhancing culture and science — together — in a way that promotes mutual understanding and respect between communities.”

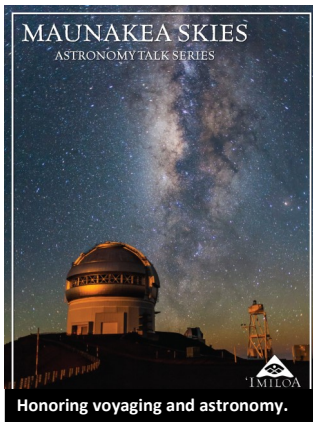
**The emphasis on “together” is key** and has taken on new meaning with the current situation on Maunakea. Kimura says the environment was just as complex back in 2001 when planning for ‘Imiloa first started. “There weren’t many science centers founded on indigenous and modern scientific knowledge coming together,” she recalls. “I think it was the first time that members of our Hawaiian and astronomy communities came together to create something.” The teams of culture specialists and astronomers forged ahead, and **the result is a center that has drawn worldwide recognition.** ‘Imiloa attracts about 100,000 visitors a year to learn about Polynesian voyaging, Hawaiian mythology, the Mauna Kea observatories, planetarium shows and more — all in bilingual exhibits. A recent program featuring renowned UH-Hilo professor Larry Kimura (Ka‘iu’s uncle) and Dr. Doug Simons, director of the Canada-France-Hawai‘i telescope on Maunakea, drew a standing-room-only crowd.



COURTESY KATIE YOUNG YAMANAKA/MIDWEEK



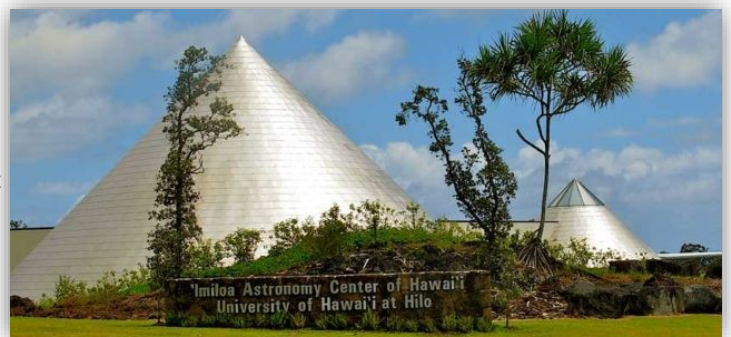
Ka‘iu Kimura, director of the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center, with the mosaic ‘Voyage of the Navigator.’ A Hua He Inoa participants with the Hawaiian names of two asteroids officially adopted by the astronomy community.



**“We have a strong commitment** between ‘Imiloa, UH-Hilo’s College of Hawaiian Language and Culture and the Maunakea Observatories to continue this work. I’m aware there are some who see ‘Imiloa as a proponent of astronomy and, by extension, TMT. But I see our role as critical to bringing the work of the observatories to the community and sharing the culture and values of the community with the astronomical community, both locally and globally. I think it’s important to have a voice that reflects our community’s voice.”

**Kimura made her voice heard** when she addressed 2,000 world-class astronomers in Seattle this past January at the American Astronomical Society conference. “I checked a lot of the diversity boxes,” she says, chuckling — “female, minority, Native Hawaiian, non-scientist.” Kimura was part of the keynote presentation about the odd interstellar object discovered by telescopes on Haleakala and Mauna Kea. The weird-looking “visitor” was given a Hawaiian name, **‘Oumuamua**, which means “first scout or messenger from a distant place.” Kimura talked about ‘Imiloa’s mission of bringing Native Hawaiian culture together with astronomy to inspire more students to love science — and she received a standing ovation for her message.

“Our programs, like **A Hua He Inoa**, help our youth statewide engage in scientific, astronomical inquiry in a way that reflects the Hawaiian practice of naming celestial objects,” she explained. “I talked about how critical it was to form **a true partnership that advances both the science and the indigenous language and knowledge.** That co-dependency is so important as we, as a community, move forward so we can advance one another. We feel it’s important to support all of the perspectives on Maunakea and its future. We’re a product of convergence of the Hawaiian language and culture and the revolutionary astronomy being done.



‘Imiloa Astronomy Center in Hilo honors both Native Hawaiian culture and astronomy.

“We want to share the amazing attributes of Maunakea — culturally, scientifically, environmentally. That’s what keeps our staff going every day. ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center reflects the spectrum of opinion and how it’s possible for people to come together, to bridge the past and the future, and to learn from each other.” For more on ‘Imiloa’s programs, go to <https://imiloahawaii.org>.

*NOTE: This article spells Maunakea as one word, as is the preferred usage by the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center.*

# Goodwill Hawaii: Still relevant after 60 years of growth

**“Donate stuff. Create local jobs.”** That simple yet powerful message on Goodwill’s website is at the heart of its mission: to help people with employment challenges become self-sufficient through the dignity of work. We all know Goodwill Hawaii through its stores statewide. And yes, Goodwill has become cool again, thanks to environmentally conscious recyclers, creative fashionistas and hard-core bargain hunters.

**But wait, there’s more — much more, says Goodwill’s CEO Laura Smith**, who has led the local nonprofit for the past 25 years. “We serve more than 12,000 people each year through 26 different job training and placement programs,” she says proudly. “We’ll open our new Beretania store and training center next year, and we’ve started the Kapolei Charter School to help more students connect to jobs.”



Helping customers at a Goodwill store.

**Goodwill’s clientele** ranges from youth at risk and people with disabilities to those transitioning from the criminal justice system and others who have been out of the job market for a while. Smith says if anyone needs help finding a job, just call **836-WORK** and a staff member will connect them with the right program. Goodwill also helps businesses looking for competent employees, especially in the current tight job market. “We’re very successful in getting people placed into jobs,” said Smith. “We not only find the best employee match, but we also provide ongoing support and job coaching so the new employee will be successful.”

**It’s all part of what Smith — part social worker, part business entrepreneur — calls “the best job in the world”:** helping those in the community find a pathway to careers and a living wage. That last part is especially important to Smith, who has helped Goodwill Hawaii stay relevant amid changing community and employer needs. Last year the nonprofit made employment placements at over 500 different companies through 900 jobs, and it works closely with the state Department of Health and the Department of Human Services to connect people to programs.

This year, the local Goodwill became part of a national grant for 20 Google scholarships so trainees can earn digital skills certification. “That means they’re proficient in Google technology as valuable IT specialists,” Smith explained. Goodwill also offers training in basic keyboarding and other computer skills. The Kapolei Charter School’s goal is also to help students prepare earlier for living wage careers. “We want them to commit to getting at least one industry certification or Early College credits before they graduate from high school,” Smith said. “We also have life coaches who work with whole families to ensure a path to success.” She noted that 80 percent of the school’s student population is Native Hawaiian.

**Goodwill’s success in workforce training, education and community service** is what convinced First Lady Dawn Amamo-Ige to be one of its most visible and avid supporters. She’s in her fifth year as honorary chair of “Goodwill Goes Glam” to support the organization’s programs and services. “The first lady’s support and commitment has really helped us amplify our message,” said Smith. “With her own background in education and community service, our missions truly align.” For her part, Mrs. Ige has nothing but praise for the organization as it enters its 60<sup>th</sup> year of serving Hawai‘i. “Goodwill has so many outstanding programs. The governor and I appreciate everything they do to connect people to jobs and help them lead more fulfilling, productive lives for our community.”



Mrs. Ige and Goodwill CEO Laura Smith.

## Modernizing the EIS process



Gov. Ige with members of the State Environmental Council.

**A** monumental, two-year effort to modernize the state’s environmental impact statement rules has been completed by the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC) and the State Environmental Council. The new rules took effect on Aug. 9 and represent the first updating in more than 20 years.

“These rules strike the right balance to ensure public involvement in government decision-making and the disclosure of activities that might affect our environment,” said Governor Ige. The rules clarify the process, allow exemptions for building certain affordable housing, make considering sea level rise and greenhouse gas emissions explicit and require public meetings at the beginning of the EIS process, among other changes. For details, go to <https://health.hawaii.gov/oeqc/>.

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