

EDB Committee

From: Kanani Higbee <khigbee1037@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 9:47 PM
To: EDB Committee

Aloha kākou:

Regarding EDB-24(13) Maui County Law Enforcement Officers Sent to Mauna Kea, I, Kanani Higbee, am not in favor of sending our Maui Police Department Officers to Mauna Kea.

I feel that Maui County is already in short supply of our police officers to serve the needs of our community. We cannot sacrifice even one of our officers. They are needed on Maui County for real emergencies, such as fires and hurricanes. This is prime time for both. And not to mention all the recent tragic deaths resulting from drunk driving. We need our officers to keep our roads safe. Our very lives depend on them.

I also feel that it's unwise to treat Native Hawaiians as criminals for peacefully protecting our sacred Mauna Kea from exploitation. It teaches society that indigenous people are criminals for perpetuating our culture and they should be arrested and prosecuted. There is nothing criminal about a peaceful display of love for a monument that holds significant sacred value. Besides, on top that whole mountain, is an area rich with learning of indigenous knowledge. It's an active university. A university looking out for Native Hawaiians where University of Hawaii has failed. This will go down in the history books. It would be terrible to have Maui Police be a part of a tragic event of cultural genocide on their own community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

Me ke Aloha,
Kanani Higbee

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Kanani Higbee