

RES24-222
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 464

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Oct 9, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Darius Kila	Email: repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 8, 2024 @ 04:49 PM
Name: Jenyssa Ma'afala	Email: jenyssa1@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Oct 9, 2024 @ 08:03 AM

Testimony:

Aloha kākou Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Jenyssa Ma'afala I live in Waianae, and I am testifying today in support of RES24-222 because my late grandfather FRED "POPS" FERNANDEZ PEREIRA, SR. has been a vital part of our community in supporting our youth and families. One thing I will always remember about him is how selfless he was when it came to helping others, especially his boxing boys. Everyone who knew him knew that he couldn't go a day without being at the gym to train and help his boys. There wasn't a moment where he wasn't thinking or talking about the gym and ways that he could make things better for the kids and their families. I have always admired his generosity and he never did what he did for any money or fame. Training with him was priceless. He did what he did because he loved it and he loved seeing how boxing could turn people's lives around for the good. I appreciate the heart that he had for the gym and the people he served. Whenever I was with him there was always someone calling him whether it was his boxing boys near and far or even those who were in prison. Many people have seen him as a Father figure in their lives because they never experienced what it was like to have one. He was that one guy that you could always count on at the Waianae gym, I think he was many people's "constant" in the chaos of their lives. If anyone needed to find him he was at the Waianae gym. He is definitely someone I look up to and admire because of the positive change that he brought to our community. He took a lot of nobodies and made them somebodies and he saw the potential in everyone that he worked with. Instead of focusing on all of the negative things happening in our community he made the decision to help change all of that instead with one boxer at a time. Growing up there was never a time that he wasn't taking in young people and treating them as his own family. He helped many young people get off of the streets and taught them that they were bigger than any circumstance or situation that they were in. I appreciate every one taking the time to acknowledge the great accomplishments of my late grandfather and sharing who he truly was and is. Although he is not here with us physically his Legacy lives on in all the lives that he has touched. Again, thank you for commemorating my late grandfather and providing this opportunity for his name and his legacy to live on. The Waianae boxing gym was his life and there is no other way that I can see it without him.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa,
Jenyssa Ma'afala



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

October 8, 2024

Meeting: October 9, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

City and County of Honolulu Council
Kapolei Hale

RE: Testimony Relating to RESOLUTION 24-222
RENAMING THE BOXING GYM AT SHINYEI NAKAMINE GYMNASIUM
COMPLEX AT WAIʻANAE DISTRICT PARK TO THE FRED "POPS" FERNANDEZ
PEREIRA, SR., WAIʻANAE DISTRICT PARK BOXING GYM

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaʻaina, and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

I am Darius Kila, and I am the current Representative for House District 44, which encompasses Honokai Hale, Nānākuli and Maʻili.

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of RESOLUTION 24-222, which seeks to rename the boxing gymnasium at the Shinyei Nakamine Gymnasium Complex at Waiʻanae District Park after Fred "Pops" Fernandez Pereira, Sr., to honor his legacy and contributions to the Westside of Oʻahu, particularly the Waiʻanae community.

Mr. Pereira began boxing as a young boy in Maʻili where he and his cousins learned how to box from his Uncle Nick. After graduating from high school, served in the U.S. Army as a paratrooper in the Korean War.

After spending a decade in Japan, Mr. Pereira returned home and in 1972, founded the Waiʻanae Boxing Club, which operated out of the Waiʻanae District Park gymnasium. For over five decades, Mr. Pereira operated the Waiʻanae Boxing Club. This became a beacon of hope and discipline with the local youth, providing an alternative to drug abuse and juvenile delinquency.

Under Mr. Pereira's tutelage, he produced numerous boxing champions, including the 2004 World Championship title belt, and multiple Golden Gloves awards. In 2019, he was inducted into the Golden Gloves of America National Coaches Hall of Fame.

Representative Darius K. Kila

House District 44—Honokai Hale, Nānākuli, Maʻili
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City and County of Honolulu Council
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For over five decades, Mr. Pereira dedicated himself to passing on his knowledge of boxing, and making a difference in the lives of the youths of the Westside, and by serving as a mentor and positive role model. He fostered the talent of the youths and instilled character in them.

Renaming the boxing gym at the Shinyei Nakamine Gymnasium Complex at the Wai'anāe District Park is a lasting tribute to a man who has given so much to his community, ensuring that his legacy will live on.

I strongly support this Resolution and urge that the Honolulu council pass this Resolution to honor Fred "Pops" Fernandez Pereira, Sr., and as a tribute to his lasting contributions to the community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darius K. Kila', written in a cursive style.

Darius K. Kila
Representative, House District 44