REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Voting Members:
Augie Tulba, Chair; Val A. Okimoto, Vice Chair;
Radiant Cordero, Andria Tupola

Committee Meeting Held
November 20, 2024

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Parks, Enterprise Services and Culture and the Arts, which considered Resolution 24-252 entitled:

"RESOLUTION NAMING THE CAMPGROUND AT WAIMĀNALO BEACH PARK IN HONOR OF GEORGE KE'A MAHOE JR..,"

introduced on October 8, 2024, reports as follows:

The purpose of the resolution is to name the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park the "George Ke'a Mahoe Jr. Campground" to honor George Ke'a Mahoe Jr.'s contributions to the City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the community.

Laura Thielen, Director of Parks and Recreation, spoke in support of the measure and mentioned that the Parks Department values the many community volunteers who engage and steward the parks. She also thanked the Mahoe family for all they have done for the community and Waimānalo Beach Park.

Your Committee considered and approved a proposed handcarried CD1 version which makes the following amendments:

A. Amends the title to read as follows:

"NAMING THE CAMPGROUND AT WAIMĀNALO BEACH PARK IN HONOR OF GEORGE KE'A MAHOE JR."

ADOPTED ON DEC 11 2024

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 346

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B. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Your Committee on Parks, Enterprise Services and Culture and the Arts is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 24-252, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 24-252, CD1. (Ayes: Okimoto, Tulba, Tupola – 3; Noes: None; Absent: Cordero – 1.)

Respectfully submitted,

Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
Ke Kanihela o ke Kalana o Honolulu
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ADOPTED ON DEC 11 2024

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 346

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-252, CD1

RESOLUTION

NAMING THE CAMPGROUND AT WAIMĀNALO BEACH PARK IN HONOR OF GEORGE KE'A MAHOE JR.

WHEREAS, Section 22-9.3(a)(3)(A), Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH"), states that in exceptional cases, a new or existing City and County of Honolulu ("City") park, site, facility, or any portion thereof may be named for a deceased individual if the individual: (i) has a "significant association with the park, site, or facility"; or (ii) has "contributed significantly to the community or area in which the park, site, or facility is located"; and

WHEREAS, ROH Section 22-9.5(f) authorizes the City Council ("Council") to, on its own motion, designate a name for a new or existing park, site, facility, or any portion thereof, or memorial, consistent with the requirements set forth in ROH Section 22-9.5, by adoption of an appropriate resolution; and

WHEREAS, George Ke'a Mahoe Jr., fondly referred to as "Uncle George," was well known for his dedication to sharing aloha and hospitality with everyone he met throughout Waimānalo, its neighboring communities, the neighbor islands, and as far as the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, Uncle George started his career in 1957 as a groundskeeper at the then new Pali Golf Course, commuting daily on the old Pali Highway from Hālawa to Kailua, reporting to work early and establishing his dedication, work ethic, and integrity as an employee of the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"); and

WHEREAS, in 1961, Uncle George started a new career as the groundskeeper for several beach parks in the Waimānalo area and eventually moved with his wife, Eleanor, and their children into the groundskeeper's residence located on the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park, a 37.56-acre City beach park, in 1969; and

WHEREAS, throughout his 40-year career in the DPR, Uncle George diligently performed his duties of park maintenance, beautification, and safety improvements at the Waimānalo Beach Park, Kaiona Beach Park, Kaupō Beach Park, and Makapu'u Beach Park; and

WHEREAS, Uncle George also assisted other DPR employees at Hūnānāniho (formerly known as Waimānalo Bay Beach Park or Sherwoods) and Waimānalo District Park from time to time, and on many occasions would also travel to assist at parks in Kailua, Kāne'ohe, and Kualoa as well; and

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RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, during the early 1980s, many Native Hawaiians called the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park their home, and Uncle George would make sure they were cared for until they were evicted in 1985; and

WHEREAS, Uncle George mentored and provided work experience for many at-risk youths, many of whom still reside in Waimānalo and continue Uncle George's legacy of community service; and

WHEREAS, while Uncle George officially served as groundskeeper, he supported many events that took place at the Waimānalo Beach Park and the campground, including the E.K. Fernandez Waimānalo Carnival, the George "Pops" Wai'ale'ale Canoe Regatta, the Waimānalo Canoe Club Regatta, and Waimānalo Warriors Pop Warner Football League games; and

WHEREAS, on September 28, 1989, the Mahoe 'ohana moved into the Waimānalo Homestead, and the groundskeeper's residence was torn down and eventually replaced by the current canoe hālau; and

WHEREAS, even after moving from the groundskeeper's residence, Uncle George would still arrive at the park at 5:00 a.m. to clean the bathrooms before the campers woke up, playing his radio in his closet so that campers knew that he was around should they need assistance; and

WHEREAS, Uncle George continued to serve as a groundskeeper until his retirement in October of 1998 and thereafter served the Waimānalo community as a respected resident and volunteer; and

WHEREAS, George Ke'a Mahoe Jr. made a lasting impression on everyone he encountered while he served the Waimānalo community as a groundskeeper by providing love and emotional support, in addition to providing campers with a sense of comfort and safety during their stay at the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park; and

WHEREAS, the family and friends of George Ke'a Mahoe Jr. wish to honor the memory of their father and his 40 years of dedicated service to the Waimānalo community as a groundskeeper at several Waimānalo area parks and facilities, including the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park; and

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 unanimously supported the naming of the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park after George Ke'a Mahoe Jr.; and

WHEREAS, the Council believes that naming the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park in honor of George Ke'a Mahoe Jr. would serve as a lasting tribute to Mr. Mahoe's commitment to the City, the DPR, and the community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park be named the "George Ke'a Mahoe Jr. Campground" to honor George Ke'a Mahoe Jr.'s contributions to the City and County of Honolulu, the Department of Parks and Recreation, and the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council requests and authorizes the City Administration to erect appropriate signage and approves the placement of such signage at the campground at Waimānalo Beach Park to reflect its new name; and

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **24-252, CD1**

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32, and the family of George Ke'a Mahoe Jr.

INTRODUCED BY:

Esther Kia'āina

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

October 8, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:
Waimānalo Beach Park Campground; Waimanalo Beach Park; Naming; George Ke'a Mahoe Jr.; George Kea Mahoe Jr.; Neighborhood Board; Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR")

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.