

RES26-151

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 256

*ZONING & PLANNING (ZON)

***ZONING & PLANNING (ZON) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Jun 25, 2026 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 36

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 3

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Healani Sonoda-Pale	healanipale@gmail.com	96824
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 22, 2026 @ 01:06 PM

Testimony:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 26-151

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

My name is M. Healani Sonoda-Pale. I am a Kanaka Maoli whose genealogy traces back many generations to O'ahu families. I am a co-founder and serve as a volunteer board member of Pu'u'honua o Wailupe and an elected member of the Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board. I write in strong support of Resolution 26-151 to approve Clean Water and Natural Lands funding for the acquisition and permanent protection of TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe.

For too long in Hawai'i, the bones of our ancestors have been unearthed, displaced, and desecrated in the name of development. Pu'u'honua o Wailupe embodies the traditional Hawaiian concept of a pu'u'honua—a place of refuge and protection. This property is serving as a pu'u'honua for iwi kūpuna, a sacred place where our ancestors remain at rest, protected from future disturbance and cared for by descendants and the community. We all know that Wailupe is a place where iwi kūpuna have been found. The archaeological record confirms it. The oral histories confirm it. Historical accounts confirm it. The State Historic Preservation Division has recognized a significant portion of the property as a significant cultural landscape, and multiple archaeological sites on the property have been formally documented and recorded. Beyond the known sites, there are likely additional cultural resources that have yet to be identified. This property offers a rare opportunity to permanently preserve an entire cultural landscape where iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, traditional knowledge, and the stories of this place can be protected for future generations.

Historical accounts demonstrate that the presence of burials at Wailupe has been documented for generations. In his recollections of being stationed at Wailupe in the early 1930s, Lieutenant Roy E. Brown, U.S. Navy (Ret.), described exploring a cave near the former radio station where he found "the remains of a canoe, bones and other items." Decades later, Peggy Hodge recounted visiting a Hawaiian burial cave at Wailupe where she observed a canoe containing bones wrapped in tree fern pulu along with cultural objects. These accounts are consistent with what lineal descendants and cultural practitioners have long known—that Wailupe is a sacred burial landscape.

For more than four years, Pu'u'honua o Wailupe has actively stewarded this site. During that time, we have hosted dozens of community workdays involving hundreds of volunteers. We maintain regular communication with the public through our website, blog, social media platforms, email updates, and presentations to the Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board regarding the status of the property and stewardship efforts. This work has been transparent, community-based, and open to public participation from the beginning.

This effort has received broad support from across East O’ahu and Hawai’i. Pu’uhonua o Wailupe's application is supported by the Waimānalo, Hawai’i Kai, and Kuli’ou’ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Boards; Holy Nativity Church in Wailupe; Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation; Sierra Club of Hawai’i; Kilohana United Methodist Church; the Board of Water Supply; Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center; Hawai’i State Representative Mark Hashem; and Kumu Hula Kawaikapuokalani Hewett. Over the past four years, Pu’uhonua o Wailupe has also worked closely with community partners including ‘Āina Haina Elementary School, Kaiser High School, and the United States Coast Guard. This broad coalition reflects a shared commitment to protecting Wailupe's cultural, historical, educational, and environmental resources for future generations.

Our stewardship is guided by the lineal descendants of Wailupe whose families have lived in and cared for this ili since time immemorial. They carry the oral histories, cultural knowledge, and ancestral connections that cannot be found in reports or archives. Their ‘ike and leadership have been essential to caring for this place and envisioning its future as a protected cultural landscape where iwi kūpuna are respected and preserved in place.

This acquisition will ensure there is no future residential development on this sacred place. Instead, the property will remain open space dedicated to the protection of iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, native habitat, and the history of Wailupe. It will provide a place where descendants can continue to connect with their ancestors via controlled access to burials, where cultural practitioners can fulfill their kuleana, and where future generations can learn about the history and significance of this area. I have been blessed to have worked with ‘Āina Haina Elementary School and Kaiser High School students to share some of this history and help foster the next generation of stewards. I also want to highlight the efforts we have made toward fireproofing a significant portion of the 2.9 acre parcel and turning it into a place of peace and restoration, with native and Hawaiian canoe plants.

I respectfully urge you to support Resolution 26-151 and help ensure that Wailupe remains a pu’uhonua—a place of refuge for iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, descendants, and future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration.

M. Healani Sonoda-Pale

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cheryl Burghardt	burgharc@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 22, 2026 @ 06:06 PM

Testimony:
Aloha
I am writing this testimony in support of APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL LANDS FUNDS TO ACQUIRE A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER ONE PARCEL OF LAND, TAX MAP KEY: (1) 3-6-023:006 (CPRS 0001-0008) SITUATED IN WAILUPE, O’AHU, HAWAI’I.

People with lineage to this place have been working diligently and cooperation with the property owner. This is an example of how cultural and traditional practices can be honored. Conversations bringing respect and understanding. This partnership is a positive path to see in our island communities.

I commend the folks who have been working hard at Wailupe and SUPPORT them in this request for the conservation easement.

Name:

Wendy Green

Email:

deegreen15@gmail.com

Zip:

96817

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jun 22, 2026 @ 06:12 PM

Testimony:

I SUPPORT RES26-151

APPROVING THE EXPENDITURE OF CLEAN WATER AND NATURAL LANDS FUNDS TO ACQUIRE A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT OVER ONE PARCEL OF LAND, TAX MAP KEY: (1) 3-6-023:006 (CPRS 0001-0008) SITUATED IN WAILUPE, O'AHU, HAWAII.

Please consider and support this resolution. The property owner and lineal descendants have worked hard together to bring this to fruition. Mahalo.

Name:

Malia Marquez

Email:

maliamarquez71@gmail.com

Zip:

96825

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jun 22, 2026 @ 07:54 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Malia Marquez and I am a lineal descendant of Mō'i Kualii'i (8th great grandfather) as well as a cultural descendant, kanaka maoli and kia'i of these lands. I believe we ALL have a kuleana to protect those who came before us, our kūpuna, our 'āina and our cultural practices.

I am in full support of Pu'u'honua o Wailupe becoming the stewards of this 'āina in which our iwi kupuna are laid to rest in these burial caves. Our people are having a difficult time staying home, in both life and death. We need to protect this 'āina, and allow other iwi that have been disrupted to "come home" to their burial site. Please support CWNL, OHA and Pu'u'honua o Wailupe in keeping this sacred 'āina preserved in perpetuity. As a community member, I will be there with many others to help clean and maintain this 'āina.

Mahalo a me ka ha'aha'a,

Malia Keli'iahonui Marquez

Name:

Email:

Zip:

Teani Marquez	teanimarquez04@gmail.com	96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 23, 2026 @ 04:00 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee, I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151. Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration, Teani Marquez		
Name: Brendan Burns	Email: Brendanburns21@aol.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 23, 2026 @ 08:10 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee, I am submitting testimony as a private citizen who currently works as the principal of Aina Haina Elementary School. I am not representing the HIDOE in my testimony. A a native Hawaiian, I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151." Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration, Brendan Po'ohala Burns		

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tapuilima Hanapi	tapuilima@yahoo.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 23, 2026 @ 08:21 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee, I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. My mother's family was born and raised in that area and played alongside the streams growing up. In turn, I also spent many years in my youth playing in those same streams and areas. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151." Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration, Tapuilima Hanapi		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jennifer Latham	revjenn.hnc@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 23, 2026 @ 08:36 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee, I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. I have been walking alongside Pu'uhonua o Wailupe for four years as they saw damage happening to culturally significant and sacred land, and saw a vision for a different path. Protecting this land with a conservation easement will ensure that it will always remain sacred and undeveloped, offering sanctuary for iwi kūpuna already in place, and the potential to be a sanctuary for permanently displaced iwi. I respectfully urge the Committee to adopt Resolution 26-151. Mahalo for your ongoing support of protecting important and sacred sites. Respectfully,		

The Rev. Jennifer Latham
Associate Rector and School Chaplain
Holy Nativity Church and School

Name: Shareen Murayama	Email: shareen.murayama@k12.hi.us	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 23, 2026 @ 09:11 AM

Name: Tyler Sonnemaker	Email: tsonnemaker15@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 23, 2026 @ 09:58 AM

Testimony:

Aloha commissioners,

I'm writing in strong support of RES26-151.

Approving funds for a perpetual conservation easement in Wailupe would be a financially responsible and forward-thinking decision by this commission.

Much like healthcare, where it's far more cost-effective to PREVENT disease than treat it after the fact, it's far more cost-effective to PREVENT environmental damage than to remediate it after the fact.

By conserving this land now, the council is getting the best deal possible for taxpayers (rather than wasting money by allowing market prices to keep inflating), and preventing further damage from over-development.

Name: Maryam Ayati Dillabaugh	Email: ayatidillabaugh@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 23, 2026 @ 10:27 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Committee Members,

I am writing to share my strong support for Resolution 26-151 to permanently protect the Wailupe property (TMK (1) 3-6-023:006) using Clean Water and Natural Lands funding. While safeguarding this open space, the cultural sites, and the iwi kūpuna is deeply important on its own, the true value of preserving this land stretches far beyond its boundaries.

This site has the potential to become a powerful, living classroom. When our children visit places like this for community service connection and/or hands-on field trips, they aren't just learning history from a textbook—they are actively participating in stewarding the land. This work teaches them a profound sense of responsibility and collective ownership over protecting our shared resources and cultural spaces. It connects them to the place and the history they live in, regardless of their own heritage.

Importantly, the message here isn't exclusive to being Native Hawaiian; it is about anyone and everyone learning to be a responsible steward of the place they inhabit. When we teach our children to connect with the land, they learn that preserving history, culture, and ancient belief systems aren't just abstract ideas—they are real, tangible concepts right in their own backyard. The lessons they learn in Wailupe will translate into how they treat the environment and their communities for the rest of their lives. Even though we may not hold the same cultural values, we all live in the same place which requires collective stewardship. We are all connected to the place in which we live.

By protecting this land, you are investing in a space that will teach future generations how to care for Hawai'i and the world. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend the adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to preserving our cultural heritage and iwi kūpuna.

Sincerely,
Maryam Ayati

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Reverend Bob Isip	bobisip@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 23, 2026 @ 10:43 AM

Testimony:
Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,
I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Reverend Bob Isip

Kilohana United Methodist Church		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Pastor Amy Wake	pastoramywake@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 23, 2026 @ 10:47 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee, I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151." Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage. Thank you for your consideration, Pastor Amy Wake Chair of the United Methodist Church, Acts of Repentance Task Force.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Karenann (Kela) Puu-Grubbs	kelagrubbs@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 23, 2026 @ 01:05 PM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Committee Members, I am writing in strong support of Resolution 26-151 to permanently protect the Wailupe property (TMK (1) 3-6-023:006) through Clean Water and Natural Lands funding. The importance of preserving this open space, its cultural sites, and the iwi kūpuna cannot be overstated. The value of protecting this land extends far beyond its physical boundaries. Wailupe serve as a living classroom where future generations can develop a meaningful connection to place, history, and stewardship. When students participate in community service projects, cultural activities, or hands-on educational experiences at sites like Wailupe, they gain more than knowledge. They learn responsibility. They learn that caring for the land is a shared obligation and that protecting cultural and natural resources requires active participation from all of us. These experiences create lasting connections to the place they call home and help them understand that history and culture are not abstract concepts, but living parts of the community around them. The lessons learned at Wailupe are not limited to any one cultural background. While this site holds deep significance for		

Native Hawaiians, the broader message is universal: every person who lives here has a responsibility to mālama the place that sustains us. Regardless of our individual heritage or beliefs, we all share a common connection to this land and a collective responsibility to care for it.

By protecting Wailupe, the City is investing not only in the preservation of an important cultural and environmental resource, but also in a space that can inspire future generations to become thoughtful stewards of Hawai'i. The values learned there, respect, responsibility, and care for community, will extend far beyond this site and benefit our island for years to come.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend the adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage, natural resources, and iwi kūpuna.

Mahalo,

Kela Puu-Grubbs

Name: Laurie Akana	Email: lalioni02@yahoo.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 23, 2026 @ 01:27 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Name: Dorian Likolehua Cooley	Email: likolehua@liliuokalanicourt.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: The Queens Court	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 23, 2026 @ 03:26 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dorian Likolehua Cooley

Name:

Rita Price

Email:

ritaprice624@gmail.com

Zip:

96826

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jun 23, 2026 @ 04:04 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, and Members of the Committee,

I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rita Price

Name:

Hugh Donlon

Email:

hughdonlon1019@gmail.com

Zip:

96821

Representing:

Self

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jun 23, 2026 @ 04:08 PM

Testimony:

Testimony in support of resolution 26-151

Aloha,

My name is Hugh Donlon and I am beyond blessed to have been able to grow up in Wailupe valley. Wailupe has shaped me into who I am today and my trajectory for the future. I had an amazingly rare opportunity to experience both mauka to makai as a young kid. From hiking in the valley to surfing the waves, I never wanted to leave Wailupe, my home. The spaces for keiki to learn and connect with 'āina is shrinking and I think now, more than ever, it is important to get our keiki rooted. I am in full support to permanently protect iwi kūpuna and Wailupe's rich history through the adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Hugh		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Alfred Keaka Hiona Medeiros	alfredmedeiros@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 23, 2026 @ 06:48 PM
Testimony: Aloha Council Members & Staff... My name is Alfred Keaka Hiona Medeiros, I'm a Kānaka Maoli and Hawaiian born and raised in Hawai'i and I'm the Co-VP of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe and also a kia'i of ko Hawai'i pae 'Āina. Whether it's the protection of land, water, keiki, kūpuna, 'Iwi, etc. It's been my Kuleana to do all that I can, to protect in any way that I can. I was one of the first kia'i that responded to stop the desecration in 2022 of the parcel of land in Wailupe, as they were destroying a sacred burial ground of which our ancestors lay to rest. It was a very stressful time and we were all unsure of what would become of everything, as the development was illegal and we had opposition from the landowner and his residence on the property...but as we fast track to today, the current landowner is on our side and in full support of us, as we've been the stewards of this land for 4yrs now and have completely changed it from an illegal townhouse development to a contained burial ground and native Hawaiian plant restoration land management. I'm writing this letter in hopes you'll let us continue to do so as stewards, but with the land being purchased by C&C and then OHA having the title and we of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe continue the maintenance of this sacred land. You'll hear the same from many people...from others a part of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe, to our supporters, residents, etc. and also you may hear a few that's against the land acquisition, as they want something out of this or want control...but none have done anything to protect or preserve this land, they've never showed up to any of our Mālama 'Āina days or have been a part of any of the process. If they truly cared, they'd be there and unfortunately they haven't, but we have been and will continue to do so, until our last breath. We hope that this proper stewardship can be the blueprint for others to do the same throughout Hawai'i and others take on the Kuleana to be kia'i for the sacred lands that our kūpuna would be protecting too. Mahalo nui for your time, as well as consideration in this process and I'd like to personally invite you all to the next Mālama Wailupe Day on July 5th. Aloha and mālama pono		
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sunshine Eckstrom	silvercanyonequine@gmail.com	96712-9417
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 23, 2026 @ 07:03 PM
Testimony: Please support funding to conserve this land.		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Taecia Kukui Akana	kukuiakana2024@gmail.com	96795
Representing: Nā Maka Ihe Kahikina	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 23, 2026 @ 10:57 PM
Testimony: Aloha e Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee, Nā Maka Ihe Kahikina respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-151. Nā Maka Ihe is non-profit organization from Waimānalo that focuses on cultural programming, supporting all Kānaka 'Ōiwi discourse in education and athletics, particularly in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. We are born of 'ike ku'una and stand on the shoulders of our kūpuna to further build the next generation of successful and industrious lāhui leaders. As kupa of Waimānalo, it is in our mo'okū'auhau to advocate for Hawaiian rights, lands, and people. We strongly support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that need to be preserved for future generations. Protecting this 'āina and the kūpuna who rest there demonstrates respect and honor for Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development and is cherished by future generations. We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage. Nā Maka Ihe Kahikina Hōkū A. Kukui A. Leicey B.		
Name: Michael Hikle	Email: puuhonuaowailupe@gmail.com	Zip: 96824
Representing: Puuhonua o Wailupe	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 24, 2026 @ 12:37 AM
Name: Kumella Aiu	Email: kumella@me.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 24, 2026 @ 07:23 AM
Testimony: Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Rep. Nishimoto and Members of the Committee,		

I grew up in Wailupe valley, living and understanding local culture, but never knowing the significance of the cliffs I looked at every morning. I'm the mother of 3 Hawaiian children. Like many people here we left for the promise of affordable housing. Our Ohana fought hard to return home. I promised myself if I ever made it back I would be in service to the land and to Hawaiians. With this promise I looked to Wailupe. I found Pu'uhonua o Wailupe. Through working on this parcel of land, i have a deeper connection to the place, to the people, to the culture and to the harm. So I am here in support of Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Every opportunity we have to return Hawaiian land to Hawaiian stewardship, we should do that! Please take this opportunity.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kumella Aiu

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Nā Wāhine Ko'i Akana	taecia.akana@gmail.com	96795
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Nā Wāhine Ko'i	Support	Jun 24, 2026 @ 07:40 AM

Testimony:

Aloha e Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

Nā Wāhine Ko'i respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-151.

Nā Wāhine Ko'i O'ahu ("NWK") is not an organization, but we are organized. We stand united in our commitment to mālama kō Hawai'i pae'āina. NWK stands as six islands united across the pae'āina, including wāhine, māhū, and kāne, that acknowledge, recognize, and support wāhine stepping into our kuleana as kia'i of kō Hawai'i pae'āina. We stand together against ALL hewa to lāhui and 'āina now and forever.

We strongly support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that need to be preserved for future generations. Protecting this 'āina and the kūpuna who rest there demonstrates respect and honor for Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development and is cherished by future generations. We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Nā Alaka'i o Nā Wāhine Ko'i O'ahu:

Kukui A. U'ilani K. Kaleo N.

Keala O. Chanelle L. Nālani L.

Name:

Lenea Naipo

Email:

ahahui@hawaii.edu

Zip:

96822

Representing:

'Ahahui o Hawai'i

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jun 24, 2026 @ 07:44 AM

Name:

Hōkū Akana

Email:

hokuliu@gmail.com

Zip:

96795

Representing:

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jun 24, 2026 @ 07:51 AM

Testimony:

Aloha e Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua respectfully submits this testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-151. Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kailua is an immersion Hawaiian language school within the broader Kailua High-school. We champion the vision of our kūpuna by teaching and speaking in 'ōlelo Hawai'i, and through cherishing and striving to ho'omau 'ike ku'una Hawai'i in all we do. Many of our students and faculty come from Waimānalo.

We strongly support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that need to be preserved for future generations. Protecting this 'āina and the kūpuna who rest there demonstrates respect and honor for Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development and is cherished by future generations. We respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Na Mākou o ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kailua

Name:

Ekini Lindsey

Email:

ekinilindsey@gmail.com

Zip:

96813

Representing:

Pu'uhoonua O Wailupe

Position:

Support

Submitted:

Jun 24, 2026 @ 08:42 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Committee Members, I wholeheartedly endorse Resolution 26-151, leveraging Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to protect Wailupe property TMK 3-6-023:006 and preserve its cultural legacy, including ancestral iwi kūpuna and vital cultural sites. This resolution empowers our community to honor its history and secure a promising future where iwi are interred correctly through cultural protocol, and location. It is evident, we've been safeguarding cultural artifacts, land, and iwi for generations!! Growing up in Waimea on the Big Island, my grandparents and community worked tirelessly to protect burials containing artifacts from disturbance and desecration since the early 60's.

Pu'uhonua O Wailupe is a vital example of community-led preservation efforts. I urge the Committee to recommend adopting Resolution 26-151. Mahalo for your dedication and undivided attention to this delicate matter.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kelvin Gonsalves	alohaainamaukatomakai@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 24, 2026 @ 08:44 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shane Pale	shane.pale@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 24, 2026 @ 08:46 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ulupuhi Pale	ulupuhi.pale@gmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 24, 2026 @ 08:47 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lorraine Fogel MD	lsfogel@hotmail.com	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 24, 2026 @ 08:57 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chris Cramer	ccramer@maunaluafishpondheritage.org	96821
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 24, 2026 @ 09:12 AM
Name:	Email:	Zip:
Matthew Casey	matthew.c.casey@uscg.mil	96850
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
United States Coast Guard	I wish to comment	Jun 24, 2026 @ 09:38 AM
Testimony:		

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

I serve as an Environmental Engineer for the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Civil Engineering Unit (CEU) Honolulu. One my roles is managing environmental planning for the USCG Wailupe Housing site, located at 5044 Kalaniana'ole Highway within the Wailupe neighborhood. I am writing to highlight the highly valuable cultural expertise and partnership provided to the USCG by Pu'uhonua o Wailupe. As lineal descendants of the Wailupe area, Pu'uhonua o Wailupe has been an instrumental consulting party during our routine National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 consultations, including an ongoing Environmental Assessments (EA), where they will be directly providing cultural resource monitoring services for our upcoming Archeological Inventory Survey (AIS). Their profound commitment to the respectful treatment of iwi kūpuna and their responsible stewardship of cultural resources make them an invaluable asset to the preservation of the Wailupe area's heritage.

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Name: Dennis "Bumpy" Kanahele	Email: puuhonua13@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Nation of Hawaii	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 24, 2026 @ 11:47 AM
Name: Jeanne Ohta	Email: jyohta@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Aina Haina Community Association	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 24, 2026 @ 03:12 PM
Name: Teri Savaiinaea	Email: Teri4westside@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 24, 2026 @ 09:55 PM

Testimony:

Testimony in Support of Resolution 26-151

Pu'uhonua o Wailupe – East Honolulu

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee on Zoning & Planning,

My name is Teri K. Savaiinaea, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-151, authorizing the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands Funds for the acquisition and protection of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe in East Honolulu.

As a Kānaka 'Ōiwi, born and raised in Hawai'i, with both my parents and grandparents from Hawai'i, I carry a deep respect for our 'āina, our cultural places, and our responsibility to protect what remains for future generations. These places are

not just parcels on a map. They hold history, cultural meaning, natural resources, and the stories of our people.

The protection of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe is important because Hawai'i continues to face pressure from growth, development, and the loss of open, cultural, and conservation lands. Using the Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund for this purpose honors the intent of the fund and helps ensure that significant places are preserved, not just for today, but for our keiki, mo'opuna, and generations yet to come.

As someone who intends to serve as a future legislator, I believe protecting 'āina must remain a priority in public decision-making. Hawai'i cannot afford to keep losing places that connect us to our history, our water, our environment, and our identity.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass Resolution 26-151 and support the protection of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Teri K. Savaiinaea

Wai'anae, O'ahu

Name: Rebekah Garrison	Email: garrisonrs@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 25, 2026 @ 08:04 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rebekah Garrison

Name: Raquel Runnels	Email: raq.runnels@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Jun 25, 2026 @ 08:05 AM
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Testimony:

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. This property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural sites, and open space that should be preserved for future generations. Protecting this land honors Hawai'i's history, safeguards important cultural resources, and ensures this sacred place remains protected from future development. I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151."

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Raquel S. Runnels

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Paul Justin Kapaliuweloa Keahi	kapalimusic@gmail.com	96761
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Jun 25, 2026 @ 08:22 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Zoning & Planning Committee,

My name is Kapali Keahi, and I respectfully offer my strong support for Resolution 26-151.

For Kanaka Maoli, iwi kūpuna are not archaeological resources—they are our ancestors. They remain an inseparable part of our 'āina, and we have a solemn kuleana to ensure they are protected with dignity and reverence.

This resolution presents an opportunity to permanently protect a place that carries not only historical significance, but an enduring cultural and spiritual relationship between the living, our kūpuna, and the generations yet to come. Once such places are disturbed or lost, no amount of mitigation can restore what has been taken.

The Clean Water and Natural Lands Fund was established to protect Hawai'i's most valuable natural and cultural resources. Few responsibilities are more worthy of that investment than safeguarding a place that contains iwi kūpuna and important cultural and historic resources.

How we care for our kūpuna reflects who we are as a people. By protecting this property today, we affirm that Hawai'i's future cannot be built by sacrificing the resting places of those who came before us. Our kūpuna are not obstacles to development—they are the very foundation upon which Hawai'i stands.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend approval of Resolution 26-151 and to ensure that this place remains permanently protected for future generations. In doing so, we fulfill our kuleana to steward these sacred places with the dignity, respect, and care they deserve.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

I support Resolution 26-151 and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe.

I was one of three teacher chaperones for Kaiser High School's Modern History of Hawaii courses' field trips (2) this past school year to **Puuhonua O Wailupe**. What the students learned that's in the back of their neighborhood, that is education beyond classroom walls.

Preservation of this significant cultural site is critical to holding Hawai'i's history and how we move forward together.

Kumu T. basically told the students on the field trip to Wailupe that, you live here now. Don't matter if you came from Japan or Germany or if you from downtown Honolulu area or Wai'manalo. You're here now. This is part of your kuleana.

Educational outreach is so important to our keiki. We teach because we want to make an impact over the next hundred years. Your decision would impact generations.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued support of protecting iwi kūpuna and preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage.

Thank you for your consideration,

Shareen Murayama
Kaiser High School, Educator and Poet



PU'UHONUA O WAILUPE



PO Box 240454
Honolulu, HI. 96824



puuhonuaowailupe@gmail.com



www.puuhonuaowailupe.org

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION 26-151

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michael Hikalea, and I am a lineal descendant of Wailupe and President of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe. On behalf of our organization, I respectfully ask for your support of Resolution 26-151 to protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe.

Pu'uhonua o Wailupe was founded to protect iwi kūpuna and cultural resources in Wailupe and to serve as a pu'uhonua—a place of refuge—for Hawaiian burials and cultural sites. Since the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893, countless iwi kūpuna across Hawai'i have been disturbed, displaced, and desecrated by development, including some of my own kūpuna whose remains were dug up and removed from Wailupe. This property contains significant cultural resources and one of the last remaining undeveloped open spaces in the area.

Over the years, Pu'uhonua o Wailupe has worked hard to care for and protect this property. We invested in archaeological studies, worked alongside lineal descendants, cultural practitioners, government agencies, educators, community organizations, and the landowner, and dedicated countless volunteer hours to stewardship of the site.

We have also reduced wildfire risk through vegetation management and the restoration of native and Hawaiian plants as part of our ongoing stewardship of the property.

As reflected in the letters of support and testimony submitted to this Committee, Pu'uhonua o Wailupe has earned the support of residents, educators, religious leaders, neighborhood boards, community organizations, and elected officials who share our commitment to protecting this special place.

Approval of Resolution 26-151 will help ensure that iwi kūpuna are protected from future disturbance and desecration, that descendants can continue to visit and connect with their ancestors, and that this important cultural landscape and open space remain protected and cared for by the community while preserving the cultural and natural resources of Wailupe for future generations.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your support of Resolution 26-151.

Sincerely,

Michael Hikalea
President
Pu'uhonua o Wailupe

Nā Alakaʻi o ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

William S. Richardson School of Law | University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa



**ʻAHAHUI
O HAWAIʻI**

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

Testimony of Nā Alakaʻi o ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi

Before the Committee on Zoning and Planning

Honolulu City Council

Re: Resolution 26-151, Approving the Expenditure of Clean Water and Natural Lands Funds to Acquire a Perpetual Conservation Easement Over TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 (CPRs 0001-0008), Wailupe

Aloha Chair Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi ("the Hui") respectfully submits this testimony **in strong support of Resolution 26-151.**

We are the alakaʻi of ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi, an organization of law student advocates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. For over fifty years, the Hui has advocated for Native Hawaiian justice in all areas of law, particularly those affecting Native Hawaiian communities, traditional and customary practices, natural and cultural resources, and environmental stewardship.

Resolution 26-151 would authorize the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funds to acquire and permanently protect a conservation easement over TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe. We strongly support this measure because it will help ensure the long-term protection of a culturally significant wahi pana containing iwi kūpuna and important historic and cultural resources.

The State of Hawaiʻi has long recognized the importance of preserving Native Hawaiian cultural resources and burial sites. Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawaiʻi Constitution protects traditional and customary Native Hawaiian rights, while Article XI, Section 1 affirms the State's obligation to conserve and protect Hawaiʻi's natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The protection of iwi kūpuna and culturally significant places is consistent with these constitutional commitments and with Hawaiʻi's longstanding public policy favoring the preservation of historic and cultural resources.

Permanent protection of this parcel through a conservation easement will help safeguard iwi kūpuna from future disturbance, preserve cultural and historical resources in place, and maintain an important cultural landscape for future generations. Such protection honors the ʻike kuʻuna, practices, and genealogical connections that continue to bind Native Hawaiian communities to this place.

We commend the efforts of community members and cultural practitioners who have worked tirelessly to protect this site. Resolution 26-151 represents a meaningful opportunity for the City and County of Honolulu to fulfill its stewardship responsibilities and support the permanent preservation of an irreplaceable cultural resource.

For these reasons, ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i respectfully urges the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Nā Alaka‘i o ka ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i

Nā Alaka‘i:

Lenei Sousa Naipo (‘27)

Ka‘ohi Gomera (‘27)

Justice Kaeo Castroverde-Moniz (‘27)

Kalāmanamana Harman (‘28)

Kiana Kekoa (‘28)

Derek Kamakanaaloha Soong (‘27)

Kyson Kainalu James-Foree (‘27)

Taecia Kukui Akana (‘28)

Sonny Dryden Kuehuikapono Seto Myers (‘28)



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**Resolution in Support of the Acquisition and Preservation of Wailupe Traditional
Hawaiian Burial Preserve**

WHEREAS, the caves on Wiliwilinui Ridge in Wailupe on the island of Oahu have safeguarded traditional Native Hawaiian burials and moepū (funerary objects) such as canoes, a feather cape, and a cannonball, marking the significance of these burials.

WHEREAS, Wailupe was a puuhonua (place of refuge) from the time of King Kamehameha I and the site of Loko Nui o Wailupe, a royal fishpond.

WHEREAS, since 1926, there have been numerous archaeological investigations of Wailupe, so the existence of the burial caves has been well documented over the decades.

WHEREAS, in 2006, the 3-acre lot on Wiliwilinui Ridge (TMK 3-6-023-006) was purchased by the current landowner who had plans to develop this property which currently consists of 8 CPR lots.

WHEREAS, in November, 2006, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), which monitors historical properties and cultural sites for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), sent the Department of Permitting and Planning (DPP) of the Honolulu City and County a letter asking that no building permits be issued for the property until an archeological survey was prepared. But a department employee did not file that letter with the appropriate property documents so that “The person who was assigned to file the report did not read the contents of that report,” said Timothy Hiu, Honolulu City and County DPP’s deputy director.

WHEREAS, in 2016, a development permit was issued by the Honolulu City and County DPP.

WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian community and residents of Wailupe, Niu, Kuliouou, and Maunalua communities have over the years opposed the development of this site due to concerns that this location contained traditional Hawaiian human burials.

WHEREAS, in May of 2018 Native Hawaiian human remains were confirmed to be in a cave located on the Wailupe property by SHPD and this site was registered under the State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) Site 50-80-15-08832 and a call for cultural and lineal descendants to come forward was made.

WHEREAS, while a burial treatment plan was subsequently created and approved by the Oahu Burial Council and SHPD with all traditional burials to be preserved in place



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the vast majority of the land outside of the burial buffer zone is unprotected from further development and desecration.

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2022, desecration was observed at the Wailupe property by heavy machinery being used with no buffer zone around the burials in place, no cultural monitor was present as well as no permit from the Honolulu City and County DPP, causing great alarm and trauma to the descendants and Native Hawaiian community as well the residents of East Oahu.

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2022, the Honolulu City Council passed Resolution 22-36, Requesting the Honolulu City and County DPP and the SHPD to coordinate their historic site review and notification procedures to prevent the destruction of historic sites and resources.

WHEREAS, there are additional known Native Hawaiian burials adjacent to this property and there is a high likelihood that any further attempts made to develop this property would result in more ancient Native Hawaiian remains being found and desecrated.

WHEREAS, Puuhonua o Wailupe is a nonprofit organization made up of the lineal descendants of the Wailupe Burials and community members who are committed to protecting Native Hawaiian remains in a culturally appropriate way and facilitating access to cultural and lineal descendants.

WHEREAS, the mission of Puuhonua o Wailupe is to Protect Iwi Kupuna (Native Hawaiian Burials) from desecration and the vision is to perpetuate a living sanctuary, Puuhonua o Wailupe, for the stewardship, management, and protection of iwi kupuna, cultural sites, natural resources, and traditional Native Hawaiian rights and practices.

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian community mobilized from across the islands along with support from Native American tribes on the continent to prevent desecration from happening at the Wailupe property.

WHEREAS, protection of Native Hawaiian burials in Wailupe aligns with the vision of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan to preserve open space and protect from steep slope development.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 supports the acquisition of the 3-acre Wailupe parcel (TMK 3-6-023-006) by the City and County of Honolulu for the preservation of Native Hawaiian burials and supports cultural stewardship of this culturally significant site by Puuhonua o Wailupe.



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 authorizes the Chair of the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board or the Chair's designee to express our support at all relevant public meetings and hearings regarding the acquisition by the county and stewardship by the Puuhonua o Wailupe of the subject parcel (TMK 3-6-023-006) as proposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 urges the Waimānalo community, other Neighborhood Boards, and all relevant Government decisionmakers to likewise support this acquisition and stewardship proposal as an example of Native Hawaiian stewardship, management, and protection of iwi kupuna, cultural sites, natural resources, and traditional Native Hawaiian rights and practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 urges all people, agencies, and organizations of Hawai'i to ensure that all iwi kupuna and irreplaceable sites and resources be protected from disruption, desecration, or destruction that may permanently harm or erase these last vestiges of our cultural heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this board acknowledges Puuhonua o Wailupe for all the work they have done to protect iwi kupuna and we recognize them as Kiai of the Iwi Kupuna, Moepū and wahi pana of Wailupe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 expects that appropriate State and County agencies involved with preservation of the cultural record including iwi kupuna, increase attention and precision in carrying out responsibility to prevent future similar episodes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii State Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator from Senate District 9, Representative from House District 18, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Chair of the Honolulu City Council, SHPD, 'Aina Haina Elementary School, the 'Aina Haina Community Association, the Niu Valley Community Association, Kupa'aina O Kuliouou, Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui and other proper agencies.

The Hawaiian Affairs and Natural Resources Committee of the WNB #32 received, discussed, ammended and passed for approval of the full board this resolution by unanimous vote at a special meeting on Thursday, August 23, 2022.



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***The Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 ADOPTED this resolution
unanimously at its Monday, September 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.***

Kimeona Kane, Chair Waimānalo Neighborhood Board #32

Kapua Medeiros, Chair Hawaiian Affairs and Natural Resources Committee, Waimānalo
Neighborhood Board #32



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WHEREAS, Wailupe was a puuhonua (place of refuge) from the time of King Kamehameha I and the site of Loko Nui o Wailupe, a royal fishpond.

WHEREAS, since 1926, there have been numerous archaeological investigations of Wailupe, so the existence of the burial caves has been well documented over the decades.

WHEREAS, in 2006, the 3-acre lot on Wiliwilinui Ridge (TMK 3-6-023-006) was purchased by the current landowner who had plans to develop this property which currently consists of 8 CPR lots.

WHEREAS, in November, 2006, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), which monitors historical properties and cultural sites for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), sent the Department of Permitting and Planning (DPP) of the Honolulu City and County a letter asking that no building permits be issued for the property until an archeological survey was prepared. But a department employee did not file that letter with the appropriate property documents so that “The person who was assigned to file the report did not read the contents of that report,” said Timothy Hiu, Honolulu City and County DPP’s deputy director.

WHEREAS, in 2016, a development permit was issued by the Honolulu City and County DPP.

WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian community and residents of Wailupe, Niu, Kuliouou, and Maunalua communities have over the years opposed the development of this site due to concerns that this location contained traditional Hawaiian human burials.

WHEREAS, in May of 2018 Native Hawaiian human remains were confirmed to be in a cave located on the Wailupe property by SHPD and this site was registered under the State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) Site 50-80-15-08832 and a call for cultural and lineal descendants to come forward was made.

WHEREAS, while a burial treatment plan was subsequently created and approved by the Oahu Burial Council and SHPD with all traditional burials to be preserved in place



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the vast majority of the land outside of the burial buffer zone is unprotected from further development and desecration.

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WHEREAS, there are additional known Native Hawaiian burials adjacent to this property and there is a high likelihood that any further attempts made to develop this property would result in more ancient Native Hawaiian remains being found and desecrated.

WHEREAS, Puuhonua o Wailupe is a nonprofit organization made up of the lineal descendants of the Wailupe Burials and community members who are committed to protecting Native Hawaiian remains in a culturally appropriate way and facilitating access to cultural and lineal descendants.

WHEREAS, the mission of Puuhonua o Wailupe is to Protect Iwi Kupuna (Native Hawaiian Burials) from desecration and the vision is to perpetuate a living sanctuary, Puuhonua o Wailupe, for the stewardship, management, and protection of iwi kupuna, cultural sites, natural resources, and traditional Native Hawaiian rights and practices.

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian community mobilized from across the islands along with support from Native American tribes on the continent to prevent desecration from happening at the Wailupe property.

WHEREAS, protection of Native Hawaiian burials in Wailupe aligns with the vision of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan to preserve open space and protect from steep slope development.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 authorizes the Chair of the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board or the Chair's designee to express our support at all relevant public meetings and hearings regarding the acquisition by the county and stewardship by the Puuhonua o Wailupe of the subject parcel (TMK 3-6-023-006) as proposed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 urges the Waimānalo community, other Neighborhood Boards, and all relevant Government decisionmakers to likewise support this acquisition and stewardship proposal as an example of Native Hawaiian stewardship, management, and protection of iwi kupuna, cultural sites, natural resources, and traditional Native Hawaiian rights and practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 urges all people, agencies, and organizations of Hawai'i to ensure that all iwi kupuna and irreplaceable sites and resources be protected from disruption, desecration, or destruction that may permanently harm or erase these last vestiges of our cultural heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this board acknowledges Puuhonua o Wailupe for all the work they have done to protect iwi kupuna and we recognize them as Kiai of the Iwi Kupuna, Moepū and wahi pana of Wailupe.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 expects that appropriate State and County agencies involved with preservation of the cultural record including iwi kupuna, increase attention and precision in carrying out responsibility to prevent future similar episodes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Hawaii State Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator from Senate District 9, Representative from House District 18, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Chair of the Honolulu City Council, SHPD, 'Aina Haina Elementary School, the 'Aina Haina Community Association, the Niu Valley Community Association, Kupa'aina O Kulioouou, Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui and other proper agencies.

The Hawaiian Affairs and Natural Resources Committee of the WNB #32 received, discussed, ammended and passed for approval of the full board this resolution by unanimous vote at a special meeting on Thursday, August 23, 2022.



WAIMĀNALO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 32
NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION •

925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3705 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

***The Waimānalo Neighborhood Board No. 32 ADOPTED this resolution
unanimously at its Monday, September 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.***

Kimeona Kane, Chair Waimānalo Neighborhood Board #32

Kapua Medeiros, Chair Hawaiian Affairs and Natural Resources Committee, Waimānalo
Neighborhood Board #32



HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 1 - RESOLUTION #22-2

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF KULI'OU'OU/KALANI IKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 2 TO ACQUIRE AND PRESERVE WAILUPE TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN BURIAL GROUNDS BY THE CITY & COUNTY TO PROTECT HAWAIIAN BONES FROM DESECRATION

ROBERTA MAYOR

At Large
Chairperson

ELIZABETH REILLY

At Large
Vice Chair

TEHANI MALTERRE

Sub district #9
Secretary

BYRON APO

Sub district #8
Treasurer

GREG KNUDSEN

At Large

KALEO NAKOA

At Large

Vacant

Sub district #1

MARIAN GREY

Sub district #2

TATIANA QUONG

Sub district #3

SAM WOLFF

Sub district #4

ELIJAH LEE

Sub district #5

HERB SCHREINER

Sub district #6

KIM HOLLANDSWORTH

Sub district #7

Vacant

Sub district #10

PAIGE ALTONN

Sub district #11

**Hawaii Kai
Neighborhood Board #1**

c/o Neighborhood
Commission Office
925 Dillingham Blvd., #160
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Phone: (808) 768-3710
Fax: (808) 768-3711
www.honolulu.gov/nco

Hawaii Kai Neighborhood
Board meets 7 p.m. the last
Tuesday of every month
except Dec. at Hahaione
Elementary School cafeteria.
The public is welcome to
attend.

WHEREAS, the caves on Wiliwilinui Ridge in Wailupe on the island of O'ahu have safeguarded traditional Hawaiian burials and moepū (funerary objects) such as canoes, a feather cape, and a cannonball, marking the significance of these burials, and

WHEREAS, Wailupe was a pu'uhonua (place of refuge) from the time of King Kamehameha I and the site of Lokonui o Wailupe, a royal fishpond, and

WHEREAS, since 1926, there have been numerous archaeological investigations of Wailupe, so the existence of the burial caves has been well documented over the decades, and

WHEREAS, in 2006, the 3 acre lot on Wiliwilinui Ridge (TMK 3-6-023-006) was purchased by the current landowners with plans to develop this property, and in 2016, a development permit from the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) was granted, and

WHEREAS, the Wailupe and Hawaiian community has over the years expressed their opposition to the development of this site due to concerns that this location contained human burials, and

WHEREAS, in May 2018 human remains were confirmed to be in a cave located on the Wailupe property by the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) and this site was registered under the State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) Site 50-80-15-08832 (8832) and subsequently a call for cultural and lineal descendants to come forward was made, and

WHEREAS, a burial treatment plan was subsequently created and approved by the O'ahu Burial Council and SHPD and the burials were to be preserved in place with a buffer zone, and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2022 heavy machinery was used on the property with no buffer zone around the burials in place, no cultural monitor and no permit from the Department of Planning and Permitting, causing alarm to neighbors and the Hawaiian community, and

WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua o Wailupe is a nonprofit organization of cultural descendants of the Wailupe Burials, environmentalists, and community activists and are committed to protecting the human remains in a culturally appropriate way, Now Therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board supports the efforts of the Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board No. 2 to purchase the Wailupe three-acre parcel (TMK 3-6-023-006) for preservation by the City and County of Honolulu and given to the stewardship of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Honolulu City Council members and East Honolulu legislators.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED: AUGUST 30, 2022 (12 AYES, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTENTION)



KULI'OU'OU /KALANI IKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 2

◆ C/O NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION ◆ 530 SOUTH KING STREET ROOM 400 ◆ HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96813
PHONE (808) 527-5749 ◆ FAX (808) 527-5760 ◆ INTERNET <http://www.honolulu.gov>

CLARISSA TANA BURKERT

Subdistrict 6
Chairperson

STEVE LIPSCOMB

Subdistrict 3
Vice Chair

JEANNINE JOHNSON

Subdistrict 7
Secretary

SHERIDAN R. SPANGLER

Subdistrict 4
Treasurer

VACANT

Subdistrict 1

VACANT

Subdistrict 5

STEPHANIE NAGAI

Subdistrict 6

OLA SOUZA

Subdistrict 6

KAUI LUCAS

Subdistrict 7

DAVIN AOYAGI

Subdistrict 8

TATIANA REEVES

Subdistrict 8

MELINDA HEALANI SONODA-PALE

Subdistrict 8

Resolution in Support of the Acquisition and Preservation of Wailupe Traditional Hawaiian Burial Preserve

WHEREAS, the caves on Wiliwilinui Ridge in Wailupe on the island of O'ahu have safeguarded traditional Native Hawaiian burials and moepū (funerary objects) such as canoes, a feather cape, and a cannonball, marking the significance of these burials.

WHEREAS, Wailupe was a pu'uhonua (place of refuge) from the time of King Kamehameha I and the site of Loko Nui o Wailupe, a royal fishpond.

WHEREAS, since 1926, there have been numerous archaeological investigations of Wailupe, so the existence of the burial caves has been well documented over the decades.

WHEREAS, in 2006, the 3 acre lot on Wiliwilinui Ridge (TMK 3-6-023-006) was purchased by the current landowner who had plans to develop this property which currently consists of 8 CPR lots.

WHEREAS, in November, 2006, the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), which monitors historical properties and cultural sites for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), sent the Department of Permitting and Planning (DPP) a letter asking that no building permits be issued for the property until an archeological survey was prepared. But a department employee did not file that letter with the appropriate property documents so that "The person who was assigned to file the report did not read the contents of that report," said Timothy Hiu, DPP's deputy director. 1

WHEREAS, in 2016, a development permit was issued by the DPP. WHEREAS, the Native Hawaiian community and residents of Wailupe, Niu, Kuli'ou'ou, Maunalua communities have over the years opposed the development of this site due to concerns that this location contained traditional Hawaiian human burials.

WHEREAS, in May of 2018 Native Hawaiian human remains were confirmed to be in a cave located on the Wailupe property by SHPD and this site was registered under the State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP) Site 50-80-15-08832 and a call for cultural and lineal descendants to come forward was made.

WHEREAS, while a burial treatment plan was subsequently created and approved by the O'ahu Burial Council and SHPD with all traditional burials to be preserved in place the vast majority of the land outside of the burial buffer zone is unprotected from further development and desecration.

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2022, desecration was observed at the Wailupe property by heavy machinery being used with no buffer zone around the burials in place, no cultural monitor was present as well as no permit from the DPP, causing great alarm

¹ <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/10/city-mistakenly-okd-permit-for-site-with-native-hawaiian-remains/>



and trauma to the descendants and Native Hawaiian community as well the residents of East O'ahu.²

WHEREAS, on March 15, 2022, the Honolulu City Council passed Resolution 22-36, Requesting the DPP and the SHPD to coordinate their historic site review and notification procedures to prevent the destruction of historic sites and resources.

WHEREAS, there are additional known Native Hawaiian burials adjacent to this property and there is a high likelihood that any further attempts made to develop this property would result in more ancient Native Hawaiian remains being found and desecrated.

WHEREAS, Pu'uhonua o Wailupe is a nonprofit organization made up of the lineal descendants of the Wailupe Burials and community members who are committed to protecting Native Hawaiian remains in a culturally appropriate way and facilitating access to cultural and lineal descendants.

WHEREAS, the mission of Pu'uhonua o Wailupe is to Protect Iwi Kupuna (Native Hawaiian Burials) from desecration and the vision is to perpetuate a living sanctuary, Pu'uhonua o Wailupe, for the stewardship, management, and protection of iwi kūpuna, cultural sites, natural resources, and traditional Native Hawaiian rights and practices.

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian community mobilized from across the islands along with support from Native American tribes on the continent to prevent desecration from happening at the Wailupe property.³

WHEREAS, protection of Native Hawaiian burials in Wailupe aligns with the vision of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan to preserve open space and protect from steep slope development.⁴

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board No. 2 supports the acquisition of the three acre Wailupe parcel (TMK 3-6-023-006) by the City and County of Honolulu for the preservation of Native Hawaiian burials and supports cultural stewardship of this culturally significant site by Pu'uhonua o Wailupe.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Senator from Senate District 9, Representative from House District 18, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, the Chair of the Honolulu City Council, SHPD, 'Aina Haina Elementary School, the 'Aina Haina Community Association, the Niu Valley Community Association, Kupa'aina O Kuli'ou'ou, Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui and other proper agencies.

The Kuli'ou'ou/Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board No. 2 ADOPTED this resolution by a vote of 8 in favor, 2 opposed, and 0 abstaining at its Thursday, August 4, 2022 Regular Meeting.

Signed CLARISSA TANA BURKERT, CHAIRPERSON

² <https://kawaiola.news/mauliola/protecting-wailupe-iwi-kupuna/>

³ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eML_6qaJoM ² <https://kawaiola.news/mauliola/protecting-wailupe-iwi-kupuna/>

⁴ <https://hnlidoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlidoc/document-download?id=14733>

June 24, 2026

Committee on Zoning & Planning

REGULAR MEETING CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026 9:00 A.M.

In Support:

RESOLUTION 26-151 – EXPENDITURE FOR A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION EASEMENT. Approving the expenditure of Clean Water and Natural Lands funds to acquire a perpetual conservation easement over one parcel of land, Tax Map Key: (1) 3-6-023:006 (CPRs 0001-0008) situated in Wailupe, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i.

Aloha Committee on Zoning and Planning Chair Kia‘āina, Vice Chair Waters and Committee Members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for the expenditure for a perpetual conservation easement for the Wailupe Burial Grounds land located at Wiliwilinui Ridge above the former Wailupe Fishpond.

I am in strong support of this effort to permanently preserve this significant Hawaiian burial ground and the iwi kūpuna that rest in the many caves and lava tubes there. This will finally end the disturbances and erasure of Hawaiian culture and history there and provide permanent protection. This funding will allow the threatened iwi kūpuna to continue to be cared for by the descendant organization Pu‘uhonua o Wailupe, in partnership with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

This is the right thing to do and important to pass this kuleana on for the future generations.

Mahalo,

Chris Cramer

Chris Cramer

Wailupe



Independent & Sovereign Nation State of Hawai'i

NATION OF HAWAI'I

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Waters, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of **Resolution 26-151** and the use of Clean Water and Natural Lands funding to acquire and permanently protect TMK (1) 3-6-023:006 in Wailupe.

After speaking with a lineal descendant connected to this property, I am even more convinced of the importance of preserving and protecting this sacred place. The property contains iwi kūpuna, significant cultural and historical resources, and open space that holds deep meaning for Native Hawaiians and the broader community.

The permanent protection of this land will help ensure that these irreplaceable cultural resources are preserved for future generations. It is an opportunity to honor our ancestors, safeguard places of historical and cultural significance, and prevent inappropriate development that could disturb or destroy these valuable resources.

As stewards of Hawai'i's heritage, we have a Kuleana (responsibility) to protect places that connect us to our history, our culture, and our Kūpuna. Resolution 26-151 represents an important step toward fulfilling that Kuleana.

I respectfully urge the Committee to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-151.

Mahalo for your continued commitment to protecting iwi kūpuna, preserving Hawai'i's cultural heritage, and ensuring that sacred places such as this remain protected for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Pu'uhonua Dennis K. Kanahale

Head of State / President

Nation of Hawaii



'ĀINA HAINA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

c/o 'Āina Haina Library, 5246 Kalanianaʻole Highway, Honolulu, HI 96821
ainahainaassoc@gmail.com; www.ainahaina.org

Jeanne Ohta, President • Melia Lane-Kamahele, Vice-President • Meymo Rego, Treasurer • Kathy Takemoto, Secretary • Directors At Large: Jeff Carlson, Wayson Chow, Bill Kilcoyne, Marie Riley

June 25, 2026

To: Councilmember Esther Kiaaina, Chair
Councilmember Tommy Waters, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Zoning and Planning

From: Jeanne Y. Ohta, President
'Āina Haina Community Association

RE: RESOLUTION 26-151 – EXPENDITURE FOR A PERPETUAL CONSERVATION
EASEMENT. Approving the expenditure of Clean Water and Natural Lands funds to acquire a
perpetual conservation easement over one parcel of land, TMK 3-6-023:006 (CPRs 1-8) situated
in Wailupe, Oahu, Hawaii

POSITION: Concerns for Safety of Neighboring Homes

The Board of Directors of the 'Āina Haina Community Association (AHCA) writes to support the protection, conservation, and preservation of Native Hawaiian iwi kūpuna, burial sites, burial caves, and other cultural resources from adverse impacts by purchasing property designated as TMK 3-6-023:006 (the Property) by the City and County of Honolulu using Clean Water and Natural Lands (CWNL) funds and acknowledges the involvement of the Office of Hawaii Affairs (OHA) in the future of the Property; as OHA already expressed their support for the community's call for a stop-work order in a letter to the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) dated April 11, 2018.

Since 2006, AHCA has been actively involved in expressing concerns about the negative impact on the safety of adjacent and downslope neighbors, students of 'Āina Haina School, and the 'Āina Haina Community. which would be caused by the Wailupe Mauka Cluster Development (2006) and the Wakea Kai Condominium Project (2018). In 2006, AHCA organized meetings, collaborated with a hui of residents ('Āina Haina Hui) wrote press releases, held a press conference at the construction site, and encouraged residents to attend Kuli'ou'ou-Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2 (NHB #2) meetings. One hundred people attended the neighborhood board meeting, two hundred people attended AHCA's community meeting, and 328 signatures were obtained in ten days on a petition opposing the project.

Wailupe Valley is well known for steep slopes, soil instability, rock and boulder falls, and homes slipping from their foundations. The city has paid for homes that slipped on Mona, Hao, Leighton, and Ailuna Streets. It is because the concerns from 2006 are still unchanged today that AHCA continues to be actively involved in warning about the risks of building on steep slopes and unstable soil.

We are concerned that the application submitted by Pu`uhonu o Wailupe downplays the potential for soil instability on the Property. Three years of informal observation is hardly conclusive of the potential for dangerous runoff, slides and rock and boulder falls (p.34) especially because of climate change and the potential for more "Kona lows" in the future.

We also dispute the claim that L&K Properties is a “landowner is willing to sell the land near cost to ensure conservation...” (p.33). The Property was purchased for approximately \$1.5 million, and the owner transferred a parcel to a partner which means the Property is smaller than it was when originally purchased. We have been assured that an appraisal is required by CWNL Fund; and we are adamant that taxpayers should not compensate the landowner for costly investment decisions that he made for two failed development plans. We look forward to an independent appraisal.

We ask the Council to protect the neighbors and interests of taxpayers by:

- a. requiring an assessment of the condition of the property and require current or future landowners to mitigate any damage caused by the extensive excavation and grading which was interrupted by a stop work order issued by the Department of Planning and Permitting. The grading was not conducted under the supervision of a geotechnical engineer required by the geotechnical report;
- b. entering into a cultural stewardship agreement requiring informing neighbors, Kuli`ou`ou Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2(NHB #2) and AHCA of (but not limited to) construction projects, community workday events and other activities that may cause noise or disruption in the residential neighborhood; and the presentation of an annual report of the background and history of the property and its cultural resources; activities, goals and accomplishments of the stewardship program to NHB #2; and to keep visual space in mind while designing the large fenced-in area that was proposed;
- c. balancing the purchase price awarded to the property owner with the need to deter the expectation that CWNL funds will be available in the future as a bailout for developers who seek to be compensated for their failed development plans and poor choices in the face of prior public warnings. Any perceived windfall for the developer sets a bad precedent for other developers and makes it difficult for other communities in similar situations.

We thank the committee for this opportunity to submit our comments and concerns.