



♦ 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>