

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED FLOOR DRAFT:

Resolution 26-65

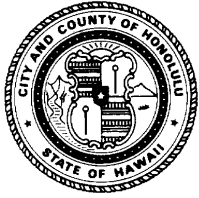
URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO RESTORE THE MAUNA LAHILAHİ CULTURAL GARDEN BY ACTIVATING AND IMPLEMENTING THE MAUNA LAHILAHİ CULTURAL GARDEN MASTER PLAN.

The PROPOSED FD1 makes the following amendments:

- A. Amends the title to read as follows:

"URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO UPDATE AND IMPLEMENT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PRESERVATION PLAN AND OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR THE MAUNA LAHILAHİ CULTURAL GARDEN, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH THE GOAL OF RESTORING THE AREA."
- B. In the second WHEREAS clause, includes low-impact community use as a use for which Mauna Lahilahi should be limited, in addition to preservation and conservation.
- C. Adds a new ninth WHEREAS clause that notes the 2007 discovery of iwi kūpuna at the site and the creation of both a 2009 Burial Treatment Plan and a 2010 Archaeological Site Preservation Plan that recommend conservation, rehabilitation, interpretation, and appropriate cultural uses for the site, and prohibit ground disturbance using mechanical equipment.
- D. Adds a new tenth WHEREAS clause that notes that old planning documents may not reflect current site conditions, erosion, climate change, or human impacts on the area.
- E. Amends the final WHEREAS clause to provide that revising the Archaeological Site Preservation Plan and other planning documents for the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden aligns with the City's General Plan objectives for culture and recreation, natural environment protection, historic preservation, and equitable access to public parks in the Wai'anae District.
- F. Amends the BE IT RESOLVED clause to urge the City Administration to update and implement the Archaeological Site Preservation Plan and other planning documents for the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden, as appropriate, with the goal of restoring the area.

- G. Amends the first BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to request the City Administration to:
1. Pursue a coordinated and culturally appropriate approach to restoration and stewardship;
 2. Review and update the existing Archaeological Site Preservation Plan, and, if necessary, the Burial Treatment Plan, in consultation with the State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division, recognized lineal descendants, community stakeholders, and the Department of Parks and Recreation; and
 3. Prioritize improvements that are consistent with the updated planning documents.
- H. Amends the second BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to read:
- "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the restoration and stewardship of the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden shall be carried out in a manner that protects cultural resources; honors iwi kūpuna; and reflects a thoughtful, collaborative, and responsible approach, while advancing the goal of a low-impact culturally appropriate garden in accordance with the updated planning documents; and"
- I. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **26-65, FD1**
PROPOSED

RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO UPDATE AND IMPLEMENT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE PRESERVATION PLAN AND OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR THE MAUNA LAHILAHİ CULTURAL GARDEN, AS APPROPRIATE, WITH THE GOAL OF RESTORING THE AREA.

WHEREAS, Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden, located in Mākaha, O‘ahu, at 84-105 Lahilahi Place (Tax Map Key 8-4-001:008 (portion)), is a property owned by the City and County of Honolulu ("City") that was acquired to develop a cultural garden and passive recreational park; and

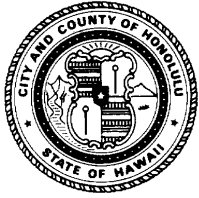
WHEREAS, the Wai‘anae Sustainable Communities Plan identifies Mauna Lahilahi as a prominent coastal feature that should be limited to preservation, conservation, and low-impact community uses to ensure access for cultural practices; and

WHEREAS, in September 1999, the Department of Design and Construction completed an Environmental Assessment ("EA") for the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden and issued a "Finding of No Significant Impact" after determining that the proposed park improvements would not have significant adverse environmental effects on the area and would instead provide cultural, natural, and social benefits; and

WHEREAS, the approved EA and Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden Master Plan ("Master Plan") identified Mauna Lahilahi as a significant natural, cultural, historic, and archaeological resource that includes documented prehistoric sites, petroglyphs, and native and Polynesian-introduced plants, and has a long-standing importance in Native Hawaiian cultural practices and for intergenerational knowledge transfer; and

WHEREAS, the stated goals of the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden include:

1. Creating a gathering place to perpetuate Native Hawaiian culture and providing a space for kūpuna to pass on ‘ike and wisdom to the community, especially the youth of the Wai‘anae Coast;
2. Preserving and protecting archaeological sites, petroglyphs, and native plants; and
3. Providing safe, accessible, and low-impact cultural and recreational facilities consistent with the surrounding residential uses; and



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WHEREAS, the City has established, developed, and maintained other botanical and cultural gardens through legislated policy, land dedication, and management by the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"), including but not limited to Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden, Foster Botanical Garden, Lili'uokalani Botanical Garden, and Wahiawā Botanical Garden, all of which serve defined cultural, educational, and conservation purposes under the DPR's stewardship; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan envisioned modest, culturally appropriate improvements, including the planting of mauka and makai medicinal gardens; the preservation of all existing large trees in good health; the introduction of culturally significant trees and shrubs; pedestrian beach access; and the protection of archaeological sites through recommended buffers and in-situ conservation; and

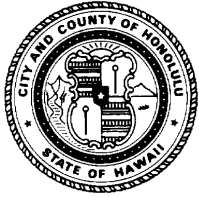
WHEREAS, despite the approval of the EA and the City's stated intent to develop Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden as a low-impact cultural and botanical garden, the park has remained largely closed and underutilized, and has gone without consistent City investment or maintenance; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, there was an inadvertent discovery of iwi kūpuna, and a Burial Treatment Plan and an Archaeological Site Preservation and Development Plan were developed in 2009 and 2010, respectively, that recommend conservation, rehabilitation, interpretation, and appropriate cultural uses for the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden but prohibit ground disturbance using mechanical equipment in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, no further development or studies have been done for the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden and old planning documents may not reflect current site conditions, erosion, climate change, or human impacts on the area; and

WHEREAS, prolonged inaction has contributed at various times to overgrowth, deterioration of cultural landscape features, and unsafe conditions in the park, placing additional burdens on nearby residents and community volunteers to maintain the area and keep it safe; and

WHEREAS, according to news reports, Mākaha neighbors and community members have demonstrated extraordinary stewardship by organizing cleanups, informal maintenance, neighborhood watch efforts, and cultural restoration activities, successfully reclaiming the park from crime, blight, and neglect and restoring it as a safe community gathering place; and



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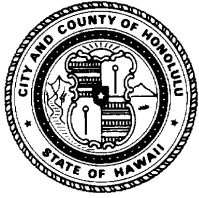
WHEREAS, community-led stewardship, while commendable, should not be a substitute for the City's responsibility to manage, invest in, and activate its public park lands in accordance with adopted plans, environmental approvals, cultural obligations, and established City practices for botanical and cultural gardens under the DPR; and

WHEREAS, revising the Archaeological Site Preservation Plan and other planning documents for the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden aligns with the City's General Plan objectives for culture and recreation, natural environment protection, historic preservation, and equitable access to public parks in the Wai'anae District; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the City Administration to update and implement the Archaeological Site Preservation Plan and other planning documents for the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden, as appropriate, with the goal of restoring the area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to pursue a coordinated and culturally appropriate approach to the restoration and stewardship of the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden by:

1. Reviewing and updating the existing Archaeological Site Preservation Plan and, if necessary, the existing Burial Treatment Plan, in consultation with the State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division, recognized lineal descendants, community stakeholders, and the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR");
2. Directing the DPR, in coordination with the Department of Design and Construction and other relevant agencies, to assume lead responsibility for the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden and develop a clear implementation timeline and funding strategy for the restoration and activation of a low-impact cultural garden;
3. Prioritizing culturally appropriate, low-impact improvements consistent with the preservation requirements as recommended in any updated planning documents, including protection of archaeological resources; restoration of native and medicinal gardens; and avoidance of ground-disturbing activities in designated conservation areas;



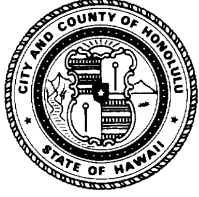
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4. Establishing a formal partnership framework with Mākaha community members, cultural practitioners, and existing neighborhood stewards to ensure community-based management, cultural integrity, and long-term care of the site;
5. Ensuring regular maintenance, security, cultural site monitoring, and horticultural management consistent with other City-designated botanical and cultural gardens, to address erosion, protect cultural resources, and prevent further deterioration of the site; and
6. Reporting back to the Council and the community within a specified timeframe on progress, funding needs, and implementation milestones; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the restoration and stewardship of the Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden shall be carried out in a manner that protects cultural resources; honors iwi kūpuna; and reflects a thoughtful, collaborative, and responsible approach, while advancing the goal of a low-impact culturally appropriate garden in accordance with the updated planning documents; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director Designate, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Director of Design and Construction.

INTRODUCED BY:

Andria Tupola

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

March 17, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:

Mauna Lahilahi; Mauna Lahilahi Cultural Garden; Archaeological Site Preservation Plan; Burial Treatment Plan; Cultural Garden; Botanical Garden; Makaha; Mākaha; Restoration; Stewardship; Planning; Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"); Department of Design and Construction ("DDC"); State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division ("SHPD"); State of Hawaii Historic Preservation Division ("SHPD")

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