

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

No. 26-65, FD1

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**RESOLUTION**

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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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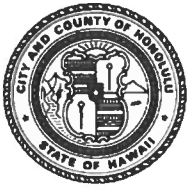
WHEREAS, community-led stewardship, while commendable, should not be a substitute for the City's responsibility to manage, invest in, and activate its public park lands in accordance with adopted plans, environmental approvals, cultural obligations, and established City practices for botanical and cultural 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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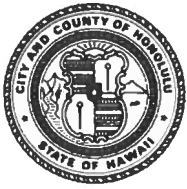
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4. Establishing a formal partnership framework with Mākaha community members, cultural practitioners, and existing neighborhood stewards to ensure community-based management, cultural integrity, and long-term care of the site;
5. Ensuring regular maintenance, 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

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DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

March 17, 2026  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
HONOLULU, HAWAII  
CERTIFICATE

**RESOLUTION 26-65, FD1**

Introduced: 03/17/26 By: ANDRIA TUPOLA

Committee: HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS &  
PARKS (HHP)

Title: 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.

Voting Legend: \* = Aye w/Reservations

|          |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 03/17/26 | INTRO | Introduced.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 03/31/26 | HHP   | Reported out for adoption.<br><br>CR-91(26)<br><br>5 AYES: CORDERO, NISHIMOTO, TULBA, TUPOLA, WEYER                                                                                                                                        |
| 04/15/26 | CCL   | Cancelled and not considered.                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 07/08/26 |       | Posted FD1 OCS2026-0423/6/30/2026 12:39 PM - not considered<br><br>Amended to FD1.<br><br>OCS2026-0434/7/7/2026 2:00 PM<br><br>8 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TUPOLA, WATERS, WEYER<br><br>1 ABSENT: TULBA |
| 07/08/26 | CCL   | Committee report and Resolution were adopted.<br><br>8 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, NISHIMOTO, OKIMOTO, TUPOLA, WATERS, WEYER<br><br>1 ABSENT: TULBA                                                                           |

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this RESOLUTION.



CHADD KADOTA, ACTING CITY CLERK



TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER