

Phillips, Andrew K.

From: Hui Lailima O Hana <huilailimaohana@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2017 10:11 AM
To: Phillips, Andrew K.
Subject: Hamoa Beach/Mokae

Aloha Members of Shpd,

My Ohana and I would like to share our Mana'o on the recent desecration and sand mining of Hamoa Beach/Mokae.

I would like to request this subject matter be presented to the Hana Community as a Public meeting before the project is moved forward. It is the proper protocol to such a huge project that has affected many loved ones who have families buried on site. It has been their resting place for many years. We as residents born and raised in Hana have respected that area for a long time.

Like most projects it always comes to the Public for testimonies before a Planning commission before proceeding. I would think this subject matter should be the same, especially when it has to do with sand mining and desecration of Iwi (Bones) on site.

There was a survey done by the Hana Cultural Center and Theresa Donham of the Historic Preservation Office. You will find that The Kaholaiki site also known as Mokae is registered in the State Inventory of Historical Places #50-13-2835 is important for a number of reasons. First and Foremost, the site is currently undergoing severe impact from coastal erosion and high surf that will one day obliterate the site.

As an important coastal site located in the culturally rich region of Hamoa, it is of critical importance to intercept this site and "Rescue" any information we can before this site erodes away.

Second,, previous research, during the Hamoa survey project has shown that Kaholaiki is an extensive coastal habitation site, possessing occupational floors and habitation debris, and subsurface burial.

Third, this site is currently the oldest recorded site for Hana. Its complexity, age, and location is windward Maui make it a very unique and special site in all archipelago. Kaholaiki dates to the 13th century, the period of voyaging between Kahiki and Hawaii. Although many sites date to this age, very few coastal sites that are architecturally complex remain.

This suggests that Kaholaiki maybe a very chiefly or religious site. For these reasons the Kaholaiki site can provide important information about the precontact life in the Hamoa and Hana area, shed light on the nature of early life i windward Maui and when put in context with other cultural resources of the island. Help us to understand the nature of social complexity in Hawaii.

Theresa Donham have made repeated efforts to obtain permission to continue work at the Kaholaiki site. She has written letters and made many phone calls to Mr. Masmichi Kato of Keola Hana Maui for when it was under that name at that time. None of Theresa Donham letters or phone calls were answered or returned. She have also asked Mr. Carl Lindquist of the Hana Community Association to intercede on her behalf with no success.

Please take serious consideration in this matter on behalf of all those involved.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Lehua Cosma

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Lehua Cosma
President
Hui Laulima O Hana
(808)269-5343

Public Testimony
re: Hamoa

Not read

(Include in Minutes)

December 8, 2017

Shane M. Sinenci
68 Kauiki Street.
Hana, HI 96713

To: Mr. Kealana Phillips
State Historic Preservation Division, Maui
101 Ma'alaea Boat Harbor Road
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

Aloha E Kealana Phillips,

I am Shane Sinenci from Hana Maui and I have worked as the 'Aha Moku Hana Representative for the last 7 years, in conjunction with the Maui Po'o Kyle Nakanelua. We have operated under House Bill 2806, Act 288 under the auspices of the 'Aha Moku Advisory Committee:

Act 288 (HB 2806) was signed into law on July 9, 2012 by Governor Neil Abercrombie and established the Aha Moku Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Act is "to formally recognize the aha moku system and to establish the aha moku advisory committee within the department of land and natural resources, which may serve in an advisory capacity to the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources." The Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) may advise on issues related to land and natural resources management through the Aha Moku System, a system of best practices that is based upon the indigenous resource management practices of moku (regional) boundaries, which acknowledges the natural contours of land, the specific resources located within those areas, and the methodology necessary to sustain resources and the community.

I am writing to you regarding the Travaasa Hotel Septic Project at Hamoa Beach Park in the Mokae Ahupua'a of Hana; site #50-50-04-1795. As stated in previous emails, 'Aha Moku Hana was contacted about the 'iwi burials uncovered during the construction of the project, and our Burial Committee which consists of lineal descendants of the Hamoa area were informed. I was able to meet with Travaasa Manager Mami 'Aina on Dec. 1, 2017, and again with Dave Roth on Dec. 4, 2017. Mrs. Aina expressed the sensitive nature of the burials uncovered and shared the concerned sentiments of the hotel's owners. She added that the hotel had inherited the Septic Violation issues from the EPA upon purchasing the hotel 3 years ago, and that the Hamoa septic project was the last of 3 violations issued to be addressed and completed. She shared the company's Archeologist report that stated, 'the findings of 3 intact body remains at the 9 foot elevation level below grade, while digging to place a second sludge tank on site'. That tank has since been moved to an alternative location. The report also mentioned another burial finding while digging for the leach field at the 4 foot elevation level below grade. Mrs. Aina also

shared that SHPD would be informed of the Archeologists' intentions 'to cover the hole where the 3 bodies were found and to reinter the displaced 'iwi in the leach area to a location near the existing memorial marker that is on site'. All this with the intentions to continue the septic project to completion by their due date.

I shared this information with the Hana Burial Council Representative, Mr. Sol Church.

Like many residents of Hana, we are well aware of the 'iwi and burials of the Hamoa area in the Mokae Ahupua'a. There is a long history of burials being uncovered at Hamoa Beach Park and the surrounding areas of Kahoalike and nearby Maka'ala'e. A more recent history of the area speaks of the Reciprocity Mill of the early 1800's and how hundreds of Chinese migrant workers contracted Cholera and died and was buried on the hill directly above Hamoa Beach. The Hamoa/Haneo'o area is a known '*leina*', where ancient Hawaiians believed were departing points into the 'next realm' or 'spiritual realm'; thus supporting the multitude of burials along this particular section of coastline.

In regards to the Travaasa Hotel Septic Project at Hamoa Beach Park, and regarding the recent discoveries of the 'iwi burials and considering past discoveries of 'iwi in the immediate area—our recommendation by 'Aha Moku Hana is to relocate the planned leach field to an alternate location and possibly off the beach premises. We realize that the Hamoa Beach Park is an ancient burial ground, and deserves the respect and attention given to all sacred places. The burials found at the 9-foot elevation level below grade greatly supports the possibility of more burials below the 4-foot elevation level below grade of the leach field area. The idea of burials being inundated with gray water from the septic system is disrespectful to many lineal descendants of the area who consider this 'sacrilege and disrespectful to their family burials'.

In addition, 'Aha Moku Hana strongly feels that this area and all surrounding areas of the Mokae Ahupua'a be given special attention by the State Historic Preservation Division and placed into a 'highly sensitive' designation area precisely because of its multitude of burials found in this area.

In closing, we wanted to recognize the important work that State Historic Preservation Division does for the support of Hawaii's past, and for the protection of our ancient cultural sanctities.

Mahalo piha pakahi apau,

Shane Sinenci
'Aha Moku Hana



JOHN BLUMER-BUELL
P.O. BOX 787, HANA, HAWAII. 96713
Telephone 808-248-8972 Email blubu@hawaii.rr.com

December 19, 2017

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MAUI LĀNA‘I ISLANDS BURIAL COUNCIL MEETING

DATE: TIME: PLACE: Wednesday, December 20, 2017, 9:00 AM
County of Maui, Planning Commission Conference Room

Kalana Paku‘i Building, 1st Floor 250 S. High Street
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

PUBLIC TESTIMONY SENT VIA EMAIL TO: <andrew.k.phillips@hawaii.gov>

**REGARDING AGENDA ITEM “VI. A. SHPD INADVERTENT DISCOVERIES/
CORRESPONDENCE”.**

- A. Inadvertent Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains at Hāmoa Beach/Mokae Cove, reported to the Maui Office of the State Historic Preservation Division on November 14, November 15, and November 20, 2017, Ahupua‘a of Mokae, Moku of Hana, Island of Maui, TMK: [2] 1-4-010:001 Information/Discussion/Recommendation: Discussion about the above find.**

Aloha Burial Council Members,

I am deeply concerned regarding the “Discovery of Human Skeletal Remains at Hamoa Beach/Mokae Cove”. Please consider;

- * The words “*Inadvertent Discoveries*” can be very misleading because this is a well known and documented burial area. **A long term preservation plan is needed NOW in consultation with the Hana Community.** This may already be an unfulfilled federal requirement.
- * I filed a complaint several years ago with the State Historic Preservation Division regarding an illegal and non permitted parking lot located mauka of the recent “discoveries”. A stop work order was immediately issued by SHPD. The

County of Maui and the owners of the land failed to follow the law and hold the federally required consultation hearings in Hana. County of Maui Public Works Director David Goode stated, “we forgot”. Not a credible excuse. The project was abandoned and materials removed. I have photos that should be in SHPD records. There was no prosecution of laws that may have been broken.

- * It is my current understanding the current contractor is the same contractor that started the illegal parking lot. The owners of the land may also be the same. A credible title search and deed(s) need to be made part of the record regarding this agenda item. **Deed restrictions regarding future use should be added to existing deeds, if not already existing and properly documented.**
- * Have laws been broken? Please identify with “case law”.

I also suggest;

- * **A future meeting in Hana to hear from the lineal descendants.**
- * **Short term installation of several portable toilets, including one accessible handicapped toilet, to handle the current public and private sanitary needs at Hamoa.**
- * **Research to find alternative sanitary solutions for the problems that exist now.**
- * **Regular long-term water quality testing involving the Hawaii State Health Department, private land owners and the community. I volunteer help on the community side.**

Mahalo Nui Loa!

John (Blumer-Buell)

To: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

12/18/2017

This letter brings to you extreme disappointment and clearly unhappiness in the way the developers handled the Hamoa Beach Project. I would hope that this practice does not continue in Hamoa Village. I am the granddaughter of George Kanawai Pi'ilani. The Pi'ilani ohana has been in Hamoa going back to the 1700's and it could be earlier. It was brought to my attention that iwi (skeletal human remains) was found at Hamoa Beach during the process of placing a septic tank. To my knowledge, when the iwi were found then the project should be stopped because it is also a historical site.

The Hamoa Beach Project was not given public awareness prior to starting the job. None of the people who live in Hamoa today was informed. My thought is if they did approach those who live in this area, the answer would be "A'ole", and you cannot dig in this area because you will find iwi. Before the project started, I called the Archaeology Division in Honolulu and was told someone is on the job who is an Archaeologist. My initial thought was why we were not approached for information when we live about 30 paces from the job site.

My concern to you is we should have some involvement of such a project because we live in the area. Tourist and owners of the hotel will come and go, but we are here to stay. Our o'hana and friends uses the beach. You can look at this situation in two-folds. One would be to move the iwi, disregard it and continue the project because why would it matter. Also, we built the current building and I am sure iwi was found, but not to my awareness or info given to me. Perhaps, we may have disregarded the iwi back then and continued to build the current building.

On the other hand, one would say hold up because this iwi has meaning, it is powerful. And this is where I stand. We cannot go back because the damage has been done and the burial site has been disturbed. I cannot verify if this is our ancestors, but it could be. Now, what do we do with the iwi? Do we keep it in Hamoa? Where would we place it? Would the community have some involvement of this matter? Would it go to the Hana Cultural Center or will it stay down at Hamoa Beach?

What solution or options was decided to complete the project. To my knowledge, one option was to continue the project, but I would have to disapprove this project of allowing our ancestors to be next to feces or in feces. There is still the uncertainty of whether there is more iwi to be found. One may say they already left this world, but my point of view is they are deserving of honor and respect. How would one feel if their ancestors were down under at this site? What if it was your mother or father? Would this be ethically appropriate?

Mahalo for your time,

Mary Ann L K Kahana, 640 Haneo`o Road
kana.2009@live.com

