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DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

MAUI / LANA'I ISLANDS BURIAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 16, 2016
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: County of Maui, Planning Commission
Conference Room
Kalana Paku'i Building, 1st Floor
250 S. High Street
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Burial Council Vice-Chair Dane Maxwell called the meeting to order at 9:30AM.

II. ROLL CALL

III. ATTENDANCE:

Members: Dane Maxwell – Vice Chair
Leiane Paci
Johanna Kamaunu
Kaheleonalani Dukelow
Kalani Ho Nikaido

Excused: Kapulani Antonio - Chairperson
Morgan Davis – SHPD Lead Archaeologist

SHPD Staff: Hinano Rodrigues – History & Culture Branch Chief
Christopher Nakahashi – Cultural Historian
Ellen DePonte – Office Assistant

Guests: Erik Fredericksen – Xamanek Researchers
Wendy Kobashigawa – County of Maui DPW Engineering Division
Gilbert Hoopii
Leona Bak Nomura – Aha Moku Hamakuapoko

IV. BUSINESS

A. Burial Treatment Plan for Site 50-50-02-7168, Kahekili Highway Repair Project County Job No: 09-48, Kahakuloa Ahupua'a, Wailuku District, Maui Island (TMK: (2)3-1-002: 016 por.)

Information/Discussion/Recommendation: Discussion and determination whether to preserve in place or relocate Native Hawaiian human skeletal remains located at the above site. Also, recommendation to SHPD whether to accept the burial treatment plan.

Introduction of Erik Frederickson of Xamanek and Wendy Kobashigawa from the Maui County DPW Engineering Division by History and Culture Branch Chief Hinano Rodrigues.

Burial Council Vice Chair Maxwell asked Frederickson to give brief descriptions of revisions. Frederickson testified that Dana Hall's testimony at the January MLIBC meeting recommended to expand the preservation area from the road right-of-way to the slope. Widening the preservation area from forty (40) feet by to eighty (80) feet long by fifteen (15) – twenty (20) feet depending on width of road right-of-way .

Testifier Hoopii, born and raised in Kahukuloa would love to see cave preserved. Built wall would be sufficient.

Cave is located about 30 to 40 feet above the road, which is hard to see unless you know where it is. There is an existing dry stacked wall. Other caves on the makai side of the site is not in the project area.

Burial Council member Dukelow motioned "I move that we vote to preserve in place." Burial council member Paci second.

"All to preserve in place say aye. Nays?" Members votes in favor. Motion carried.

Burial council member Dukelow made a second motion "To approve the preservation plan with the enlarged buffer zone and the dry stack wall to cover the burial." Burial council member Ho Nikaido second.

Discussion brought up by member Kamaunu about 'sealing' which would bring attention to the public. Vice-chair Maxwell feels that it would be a good idea to leave it up to the community that live in that area to decide on the wall.

Member Dukelow said that 'sealing' would be good for high traffic areas.

Fredericksen and then MLIBC Vice-Chair, Scott Fisher went to site during survey.

According to Fredericksen, the dry stack wall to the entrance of the cave has been maintained by community members under the guidance of Richard Hoopii. Koa Haole and other vegetation blocks view of cave.

Burial council Vice-Chair Maxwell “recommend (meaning SHPD) the acceptance of the BTP with two (2) conditions the dry stack wall and enlarge buffer zone.” Members votes in favor. Motion carried.

V. INADVERTENTS

A. Inadvertent Discoveries of Human Skeletal Remains at Kaulahao, Hamakuapoko and Ho’okipa Due to High Wave Action. Information/Discussion/Recommendation: Information on the above discoveries.

History and Culture Branch Chief Rodrigues introduces Christopher ‘Ikaika’ Nakahashi as Cultural Historian. Maui Burial Sites Specialist to start sometime soon.

Explanation of recovery with SHPD Lead Archaeologist, Morgan Davis, of iwi kupuna at North Shore beaches. Accompanied by MPD and DOCARE . Huge chunks from the hillside kept falling. Was able to recover about four (4) to five (5) individuals remains that fell from the hillside to the shoreline and in the water. Could see about six (6) visible burials in the hillside. Because of safety issues did not want to recover skeletal remains on the hillside. Also, there were huge rocks on the burials. Did not retrieve iwi on the hillside. Would speed up erosion as sand was constantly falling.

Erosion due to weather changes and sea level rises, eventually Hana Highway in that area will become beachfront. Houses will fall into the ocean.

Concern is if remove iwi from the hill, would create erosion and more iwi would be exposed and location near area to reinter.

Discussion with the burial council members on skeletal remains buried near the ocean. Could be that it’s meant that burials would someday return to the ocean. Mention of putting a “kapu” on that area. Enforcement on “kapu” would be difficult. Could put signage due to safety not burials. Accessibility to the site are by fishermen or residents of the area. Usually high tide goes to hillside and low tide be able to walk on shoreline.

When Cultural Historian visit site, huge chunks of hillside on the shore. When revisit site a couple of days later, chunks have gone due to the tides.

Concern of Cultural Historian Nakahashi is location of reinterments. If preserve in place, iwi would be exposed again.

Mention of sea burials for the archived skeletal remains the department holds. History and Culture Branch Chief Rodrigues responded that maybe would be DOH issue. DOH would be involved with human remains. Not sure about human skeletal remains burials.

Question of cremation of the bones for sea burials. Cremation in the Hawaiian culture was looked down upon. That is when the flesh and bones have been disintergrated. It was okay for the flesh to be removed from the bones and let the bones disintergrate on its own. Thought was if cremate skeletal remains, could easily do sea burial without disturbance from public. And how long would it take for skeletal remains to disintegrate in the ocean than on land. Could agendize this for future discussion.

Question on protocol of being called at the SHPD office. Culture Historian Nakahashi explained that his understanding when called out, department is accompanied by MPD, County Coroner and DOCARE. Assess if remains are human, over 50 years and of Hawaiian ancestry, Maui Archaeologist, Morgan Davis would make sure of remains again. If not Hawaiian then would leave it up to MPD and County Coroner for assessment.

Last public testifier, Leona Bak Nomura, representing Aha Moku Hamakuapoko knows about iwi for numerous years. Was told by someone's grandfather that burials are meant to go into sea. Would like the iwi left alone. Also, would like iwi that was recovered at the site to be put back. That area known as "Bones".

Burial council Vice-Chair Maxwell deferred Communications item A: Letter Dated February 16, 2016 from the Air Force Research Laboratory, Directed Energy Directorate to the Burial Council Regarding the Modernization of Maui Space Surveillance Site (MSSC) Equipment, Haleakala and Maui, HI. Information/Discussion/Recommendation: Discussion on the above letter regarding the Environmental Assessment for their project.

Meeting adjourned by Burial council Vice-chair Maxwell at 10:20am.

Minutes by SHPD Office Assistant Ellen DePonte.