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**Sent:** Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:44 PM

**To:** DLNR.Intake.SHPD <[dlnr.intake.shpd@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlnr.intake.shpd@hawaii.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In support of the nomination for Pu'uokapolei - Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board Meeting, July 31, 2020, Agenda Item C.

Aloha Kākou,

I'm writing in support of the nomination for Pu'uokapolei to be included in the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places.

As the application so aptly demonstrates, Pu'uokapolei fully meets the requirements for such a designation in regards to its significance to the history, architecture, archaeology, or culture of Hawai'i communities.

Here are but a few examples, as shared by community leaders and historians:

- Pu'uokapolei served as a place of governance as early as the 13<sup>th</sup> century when Kamaunuaniiho served as konohiki. Remnants of her home still exist at the pu'u today.
- The largest heiau in the Honouliuli ahupua'a existed at Pu'uokapolei. In 1920 the rocks from the heiau were crushed and used in the foundation of Farrington Highway as well as in the irrigation ditches of old sugar cane fields in the area.
- Sam Kamakau and Bishop Museum Archaeologist H. Gilbert McAllister both identify Pu'uokapolei as the most sacred and important place in the ahupua'a of Honouliuli.
- Because of its locality and sacredness, Pu'uokapolei was considered the piko or epicenter of Honouliuli.
- The pu'u served as an important landmark for travelers on their way to Wai'anae. At one time, there were three ways to get to the moku of Wai'anae. One was by way of Kolekole; the other was by way of Pohakea; and the third was by way of Pu'u 'o Kapolei.
- Solar observation occurred regularly at Pu'uokapolei and it is the one place in the region where the celebration and observance of the Changing of Seasons occurred. Today the Changing of the Seasons is still celebrated and observed annually.

Kapolei, in and of itself, is a modern creation in both name and development. Unlike the long- and longer-standing place names in the area, both Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian ('Ewa, Honouliuli, Barber's

Point, etc.), the name Kapolei entered the common vernacular – at least in my memory – in the 1990s. The area was then heralded as the up and coming second city. Today, development in the area is still considered young and the urban landscape continues to grow.

The inclusion of Pu‘uokapolei on the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places ensures that its cultural and historic value are preserved. It ensures that its story will be safeguarded and not usurped or muddled by the natural layering of other histories. As such, I propose that the designation of Pu‘uokapolei not include Fort Barrette. Rather, Fort Barrette should be given its own and separate designation on the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places, pursuant to its own application. The inclusion of Pu‘uokapolei on the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places will provide the young and growing community of Kapolei with a link to the land’s past and to its first residents. This sense of historical connection is important for nascent communities, such as Kapolei as it helps to define the character of the neighborhood and solidify its sense of place, indeed, its sense of belonging within the entirety of Hawai‘i.

By the love, dedication, and grit of community members, Pu‘uokapolei has been stirred to new life. A budding, local non-profit, Ulu A‘e Learning Center (I serve on the board for Ulu A‘e.) , holds regular cultural events at the pā hula, the hula mound. These happenings have now become signature community events connecting neighbors, and most especially the youth, to the rich history of Pu‘uokapolei. Many of the historic events that once took place at Pu‘uokapolei in what we may call Hawaiian antiquity are no longer a specter, but are a thriving reality for the new residents of this area. Like roots to a tree, the more the community is connected to the cultural past of the land they live on, the healthier the future is for that community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

