

O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy

November 14, 2021

Aloha Chair Stephens and Historic Places Review Board Members,

Thank you for your interest in the history of Irwin Memorial Park. We are forwarding a complete copy of the original nomination of Irwin Memorial Park approved by the Hawai'i Historic Places Review Board in 1999. Also attached for the Review Board's respected consideration is related documentation associated with the above.

Our testimony before the Review Board on November 19, 2021 will be in objection to the present re-registration of "Irwin Park" in contrast with its most significant era, summarized as follows:

- The proposed nomination's change of Significance Criteria from A (significant events), B (significant people) and C (significant design) to only Criterion A, with elimination of significance categories B and C;
- The proposed nomination's changes to the Period of Significance from the period between 1930 to 1940, by eliminating 1930 through to 1934 and extending diminished significance through 1965;
- The proposed nomination's changes to the Statement of Significance in major ways and materials, including the Park's reduction by infrastructural intrusions into the centerpiece green open landscape and renowned gathering place;
- The proposed nomination's elimination of Significant Persons, including William G. Irwin, the Park's namesake, as well as the original designers of the Park, Thompson and Thompson.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this pertinent documentation.

Michelle S. Matson
President, O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy