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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM  
AQUATIC RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT CONVEYANCES  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM  
LAND MANAGEMENT  
STATE PARKS  
WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Nov 19 12:37 PM '91

# AGENDA

## MOLOKAI ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday, November 26 1991  
**Time:** 1:00 PM  
**Place:** Mitchell Pau'ole Center  
Kaunakakai, Molokai

- I. OPENING REMARKS
- II. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 23, 1991 MEETING MINUTES
- III. BUSINESS
  - A. Reinterment of Hawaiian Remains Repatriated from American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)  
Recommendation: proposed reburial of four *iwi po'o* (skulls) repatriated from the AMNH in New York City by Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna o Hawai'i Nei.
  - B. National Park Services  
Kalaupapa, Kalawao  
Information: discussion of the possible inventory of any known and unmarked burial sites.
  - C. Kalaupapa Airport Reinterment  
Kalaupapa, Kalawao  
Information: update on arrangements to reinter infant remains and scattered fragments found during construction.
  - D. Fencing Mo'omomi Sand Dune  
Mo'omomi, Kalua Ko'i  
Information: update of request to Molokai Ranch to fence off sensitive areas of the Mo'omomi sand dune containing early Hawaiian burial sites.
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS
- V. ADJOURNMENT



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WILLIAM W. PATY, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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MINUTES  
MOLOKAI ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, November 26, 1991  
Time: 1:00 PM  
Place: Mitchell Pau'ole Center  
Kaunakakai, Molokai

**ATTENDANCE:**

Council: Matthew Adolpho Jr., William Akutagawa Jr., Lani Kapuni, Colette Machado, Eliza Reyes, Pearl Hodgins, Henry Ayau, Jr. (excused), Henry Nalaielua (absent)

Staff: Edward Ayau

Guests: James Powell (Archaeological Consultants Hawai'i)

**I. OPENING REMARKS:**

Chairperson Colette Machado called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. Aunty Lani Kapuni offered a *pule wehe* (opening prayer). Machado announced that Henry Ayau was excused from the meeting and that Peter Thompson was unable to attend due to a conflicting engagement with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. As a result, agenda item C was tabled until further notice.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the October 23, 1991 Molokai Island Burial Council meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved with no changes or corrections. (Akutagawa\Reyes)

### III. BUSINESS:

#### A. REINTERMENT OF HAWAIIAN REMAINS REPATRIATED FROM AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

**Recommendation:** proposed reburial of four *iwi po'o* repatriated from the American Museum of Natural History in New York City by Hui Mālama I Nā Kūpuna o Hawai'i Nei.

Edward Ayau explained that in June of 1991, he and Kūnani Nihipali of Hui Mālama, traveled to New York City in the hopes of returning 31 Hawaiian remains from the AMNH pursuant to a federal law called the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601). The federal law requires federally funded institutions to inventory, identify, and return Native Hawaiian remains. Hui Mālama is named in the law as authorized to request and return Hawaiian remains. Hui Mālama had been working over a year to have these remains returned. The AMNH information stated that the 31 remains were sent by the Bishop Museum as a gift in 1921. Of the 31 remains, four were identified to Mo'omomi. Following negotiations in which the AMNH opposed return, all 31 remains were returned to Hawai'i. Moreover, the O.H.A. sent a letter to the AMNH failing to support the return.

Matthew Adolpho presented the reburial plan on behalf of Hui Mālama. Adolpho first inquired what the relationship was between Hui Mālama and the Council. Ayau said one of the Council's responsibility is to make recommendations to the DLNR regarding reburial matters. Adolpho said that the Hui Mālama members of Molokai met with kūpuna Clara Ku and Lani Kapuni and decided that the remains should be reburied at Mo'omomi as soon as possible. Ayau stated that a reburial agreement had been reached earlier with Nature Conservancy.

Chairperson Machado stated that she was unclear as to the nature of this matter and that had she realized this at Kalaupapa, she would not have tabled the matter and instead had the Council discuss it more fully. She also inquired whether any descendants were identified, as she remembers that Mrs. Gertrude Frantz identified herself as a descendant when the Bishop Museum remains were returned last April. Ayau said that the identities of the four individuals were unknown, and that it was believed these remains were removed at the same time as the remains that were returned from Bishop Museum.

**Motion:** support the plans of Hui Mālama to rebury four *iwi po'o* repatriated from the American Museum of Natural History in the Keonelele Sand Dune following the meeting.

**Discussion:** none.

**Vote:** all in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

**B. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

**Information:** discussion of the possible inventory of any known and unmarked burial sites.

Item tabled until further notice.

**C. KALAUPAPA AIRPORT REINTERMENT**

**Information:** update on arrangements to reinter infant remains and scattered fragments found during construction.

Edward Ayau explained that the Council's recommendations regarding reinterment was communicated in the form of a inter departmental memorandum from Mr. Paty to Ed Hirata of DOT. In addition, Ayau was working with Carolyn Imamura of DOT's community advocate program to work out the details of the reburial. A community meeting is being planned for December 18, 1991 at Kalaupapa to explain the plans. There is some uneasiness to the idea of reburying the child under the tree and some talk of reburying the child in a cemetery instead.

Chairperson Machado said that the Council gave deference to the wishes of the Kalaupapa Advisory Council and that in fact, it was they who wanted the child reburied under the tree. Moreover, that the Council was under the impression that the remains were to be reburied as soon as possible. Ayau said that he has made it clear to Imamura that he will attend the December 18, 1991 meeting to explain that a decision had been made by the DLNR to accept the recommendation of the Council regarding the reburial site and that the DOT had indicated that it had preliminarily approved the DLNR decision. All parties authorized to be consulted regarding this matter has been consulted, including the Kalaupapa Advisory Council of which Henry Nalaielua is a member.

James Powell asked to raise a matter of concern relating to possible burial discoveries at the Kalaupapa Airport. Because a new runway is being constructed, there is a point at which both runways will intersect. This area is being referred to as the crossover. Powell said that the plan is to shut down the airport for 5-6 days straight during work on the crossover section. Powell asked the Council for guidance on what to do if burials are found. The crossover area has a sand base which raises the possibility of finding burials tremendously.

Chairperson Machado and Matthew Adolpho raised serious concerns about the high possibility of finding burials and the need to proceed cautiously and carefully. Both stated their position that burials should not be moved unnecessarily.

**Motion:** the Kalaupapa airport be shut down for 3 weekends instead of 5-6 days straight so as to allow time for consideration of proper treatment in the event burials are found. (Adolpho\Akutagawa)

**Discussion:** Chairperson Machado stated that we have to live with ourselves, we have to face the community when we make decisions. This is not an easy thing that we can take lightly. Matthew Adolpho stated that the Council does not want to be pressured in making a decision. Billy Akutagawa inquired what would we (the Council) do if remains were found. Adolpho replied, we would ask Henry what he wants to do. Edward Ayau stated that as the law is written, if any burials are found, they would be treated as inadvertent discoveries which the DLNR decides proper treatment, not the Council. The DLNR would ask the Council for a recommendation only.

**Vote:** all in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

Edward Ayau inquired whether testing has revealed any evidence of a cultural layer which may help to predict the presence of burials in the crossover section. Powell stated that he had discussed the matter with Annie Griffin, DLNR Maui County Archaeologist but that Griffin did not believe the testing would be that helpful. Powell said he thought the testing could possibly provide information that may be useful in predicting the presence of burials.

**Motion:** recommend testing be conducted near the crossover section where possible to better predict the possible presence of Hawaiian burial sites. (Adolpho\Akutagawa)

**Discussion:** Chairperson Machado and Matthew Adolpho stated that there is a need to be more sure and in order to do that, the Council needed to acquire more information.

**Vote:** all in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

#### **D. FENCING MO'OMOMI SAND DUNE**

**Information:** update of request to Molokai Ranch to fence off sensitive areas of the Mo'omomi Sand Dune containing early Hawaiian burial sites.

Edward Ayau explained that a letter was sent to Molokai Ranch requesting the Ranch fence off the burials to protect from cattle grazing. Ayau handed out a response letter from Ranch Manager Ian Hurst that the Ranch would agree to fence the area off but first needed DLNR staff to define the areas. Pearl Hodgins reiterated the Ranch's position to work on this matter. Ayau said that DLNR would work with Molokai Ranch to define the sensitive areas.

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The December Molokai Burial Council meeting was suspended by unanimous agreement. However, the Council would be prepared to meet should burials be found at the crossover section of the Kalaupapa Airport or should there be any serious concerns raised at the December 18, 1991 Kalaupapa Community meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., January 27, 1992 at the Mitchell Pau'ole Center Conference Room.

**V. ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

*Eddie H. Oyan*