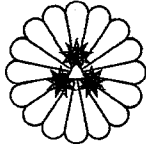


2023.118



PALOLO KWANNON TEMPLE

3326 PAALEA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816
PHONE: 737-5177

HISTORIC PRES DIV
DEPT OF LAND &
NATURAL RESOURCES

23 MAR 20 12:03

TO: State Historic Preservation Division
ATTN: Register Program
601 Kamokila Boulevard, Room 555
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

FROM: Reverend Irene Eshin Matsumoto
Resident Minister
Palolo Kwannon Temple
3326 Paalea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

SUBJECT: Otsubo Stone Monuments
Multiple Locations: Palolo Kwannon Temple
3326 Paalea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816
TMK: (1) 3-3-039:024; 3-9-012:002, 2-8-001:039, 2-8-015:001, 2-1-018:002

DATE: March 15, 2023

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS PREPARED FOR THE
MARCH 24, 2023 MEETING OF THE
HAWAII HISTORIC PLACES REVIEW BOARD
RE: OTSUBO STONE MONUMENTS

1. As trustee of the Richard T. Matsumoto Trust and the Irene E. Matsumoto Trust, I am the fee simple owner of Palolo Kwannon Temple, which is private property located at 3326 Paalea Street, Honolulu, HI 96816, TMK (1) 3-3-039:024, and I object to the listing of my property in the Hawaii Register of Historic Places. I also object to having my property recommended for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

2. I received notification of this March 24, 2023 hearing by letter dated February 23, 2023 that was sent to 3326 Paalea Street via certified mail, return receipt requested. The envelope containing the letter was post-marked February 27, 2023. I did not receive forty-five days' notice of the March 24, 2023 hearing. I did not refuse the letter when a postal worker presented it to me at my home at 3326 Paalea Street on March 2, 2023 and did sign for the letter. I have had less than thirty days from the receipt of the letter to submit this statement of objections to the Review Board. The United States Postal Service tracking number for the letter is 7020 0640 0002 1919 5745.

3. I have reviewed the Otsubo Stone Monuments nomination, available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/shpd/files/2023/02/Otsubo-Stone-Monuments-1.pdf>.

4. The nomination seeks to have the Review Board order objects carved by Sentaro Otsubo onto the State Register. The only such object on my property is a 10-inch tall reconstructed stone head that sits atop a statue sculpted by someone else, Yonekichi Kumano.

5. The nomination calls the statue on my property the "Ojizo Otsubo-Restored Sculpture" (PDF pages 13 and 33), "The First and Second Ojizo Monument" (PDF page 39), "First/Second Ojizo Monument from Halona Point Head Replacement by Otsubo" (PDF pages 74 and 110), or an "Otsubo Stone Monument" throughout. This statute is of Bodhsattva Ksitigarbha (Sanskrit) or Umimamori Jizo (Japanese) -- the Guardian of the Sea. The statue was always known as "Ojizo-sama." The Honolulu Japanese Casting Club ordered the statue from Hiroshima, Japan. It was sculpted by Yonekichi Kumano using Japanese granite. It was enshrined at Halona Blowhole on August 31, 1932 to guard the fishermen at that precarious site.

6. Due to war tensions between Japan and the United States and China, the statue was vandalized almost immediately. The original statue held a "shakujo," or a scepter, in his right hand, and a "nyohoju," or a jewel, in his left hand. From the beginning, those were stolen. Every time the club replaced the items, they would be stolen. The statue's hands were also broken off. The statue's head was also damaged many times. The club would re-attach the head to the statue, but vandals finally pushed the entire statue off its pedestal and onto the ground. The head was lost. The club frantically searched for it to no avail, so they decided to erect a stationary boulder-style monument in the statue's place. The club arranged for Mr. Sentaro Otsubo, an excellent stone carver, to sculpt a bas-relief figure of Ojizo into a boulder placed at Halona Blowhole that is still there today. The Hawaii Shingon Mission has been performing annual memorial services at the site ever since. The club also asked Mr. Otsubo to sculpt a head for the damaged Ojizo-sama statue, which was taken to Mr. Otsubo's residence in Moiliili where it remained for decades. During this time, the Otsubo family called the statue "Ojizo-sama." Mr. Otsubo eventually found a local rock to sculpt into a replacement head for Ojizo-sama. The statue's hands, scepter, and jewel were never reconstructed, by Mr. Otsubo or anyone else.

7. In 1963, Mr. Otsubo's family decided to renovate their Moiliili residence into a commercial building. The Ojizo-sama statue needed to be relocated, and the family logically asked the Hawaii Shingon Mission to accept it. The Hawaii Shingon Mission board members declined. Mrs. Yakue Natsuyama, the daughter of Mr. Otsubo, was friends with my husband's cousin, Mrs. Shizuko Hashimoto Matsumoto. Mrs. Natsuyama asked Mrs. Matsumoto to ask my husband to accept the Ojizo-sama, and he did. We held an enshrinement service on November 24, 1963.

8. For almost 60 years, we have lovingly cared for the Ojizo-sama. I have sewn cloth bibs for him for New Year's Day and for all four seasons. The cloth bibs cover the damaged parts like his neck and missing hands. Although I respect Mr. Otsubo's artistry in reconstructing the stone head, as well as Otsubo family's gift of the statue to our temple, I generally object to having Ojizo-sama included in the State and National Registers and wish to point out specific inaccuracies in the nomination.

9. First, the nomination incorrectly lists the TMK number for my property as 1-3-3-039:025 on PDF page 45.

10. Second, the nomination inaccurately characterizes my property as “Public-Private” on PDF pages 13, 33, 74, 110. The property is private property. Moreover, it is a residence. The Palolo Kwannon Temple is a home temple located within 3326 Paalea Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816. My son and his family, my daughter, and I live here. From the Palolo Kwannon Temple’s founding in 1935, we have paid real property taxes. We were at one time open to the public for prayer. Since 1990, however, when our home temple was burglarized, the police advised us to keep our doors closed and locked because “times have changed.” With the exception of Kwannon services that are scheduled for every 18th of the month, temple services are available by appointment only. I am currently 94 years old and collapsed on May 17, 2022. I was taken to Straub Hospital and diagnosed with a stroke and seizure. After a week, I went to a skilled nursing facility at Kalakaua Gardens and thankfully was discharged on July 15, 2022 with continued physical therapy and occupational therapy support. I am still recuperating. I am Palolo Kwannon Temple’s last resident minister. Including the address to my home on the State and National Registers poses safety risks for the public and for my family. Due to the construction of monster homes in my neighborhood, there is nowhere to park. Also, we continue to experience theft and vandalism of temple items located outside the home, where Ojizo-sama stands. Recently, someone stole a Buddhist guardian dog statue from my temple, and someone else destroyed an orchid in a pot.

11. Third, the nomination inaccurately states that Mr. Otsubo “restor[ed] the whole statue” on page PDF 16. To be clear, Mr. Otsubo carved a replacement head for the statue. The statue is still missing both hands, a scepter, and a jewel.

12. Fourth, PDF page 39 of the nomination provides insufficient justification for including the Ojizo-sama on the State and National Registers based on the seven characteristics of integrity. As to “location” and “setting,” the nomination acknowledges that the statue has been relocated far from its original setting. Palolo is almost ten miles away from Halona Blowhole. Further, the original “association” between the statue and its protection over fishermen at Halona Blowhole is no longer as apparent as it once was when the statue was in situ. As to the “design,” “materials,” and “workmanship” characteristics, the nomination focuses more on the work of Yonekichi Kumano, who carved the original statue, and states only that Mr. Otsubo’s challenge was finding a matching stone out of which to carve the replacement head. As to the “feeling” characteristic, the nomination states, “This bas relief stone monument captures the spirit of the times. It commemorates the remembrance of loss of life and the warning of the dangers facing fisherman.” The 10-inch stone head carved by Mr. Otsubo is not a bas relief stone monument. The “feeling” statement on PDF page 39 appears to have been cut and pasted from the “feeling” statement on PDF page 38, regarding the Halona Point/Bamboo Ridge Ojizo Monument. The nomination therefore does not provide complete or persuasive justifications, based on the seven characteristics of integrity, for Ojizo-sama’s inclusion in the State and National Registers.

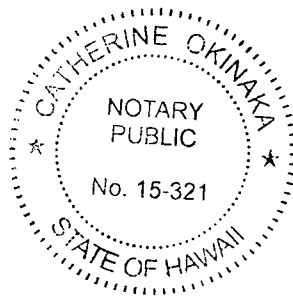
13. If the Review Board decides to order the Ojizo-sama, located at Palolo Kwannon Temple, into the State Register, I request a contested case hearing and intend to petition the Review Board for the same.

14. I object to any recommendation of my property for inclusion onto the National Register as well.

In reverence,

Irene E. Matsumoto
Irene Eshin Matsumoto
Resident Minister, Palolo Kwannon Temple

** see attached acknowledgment*

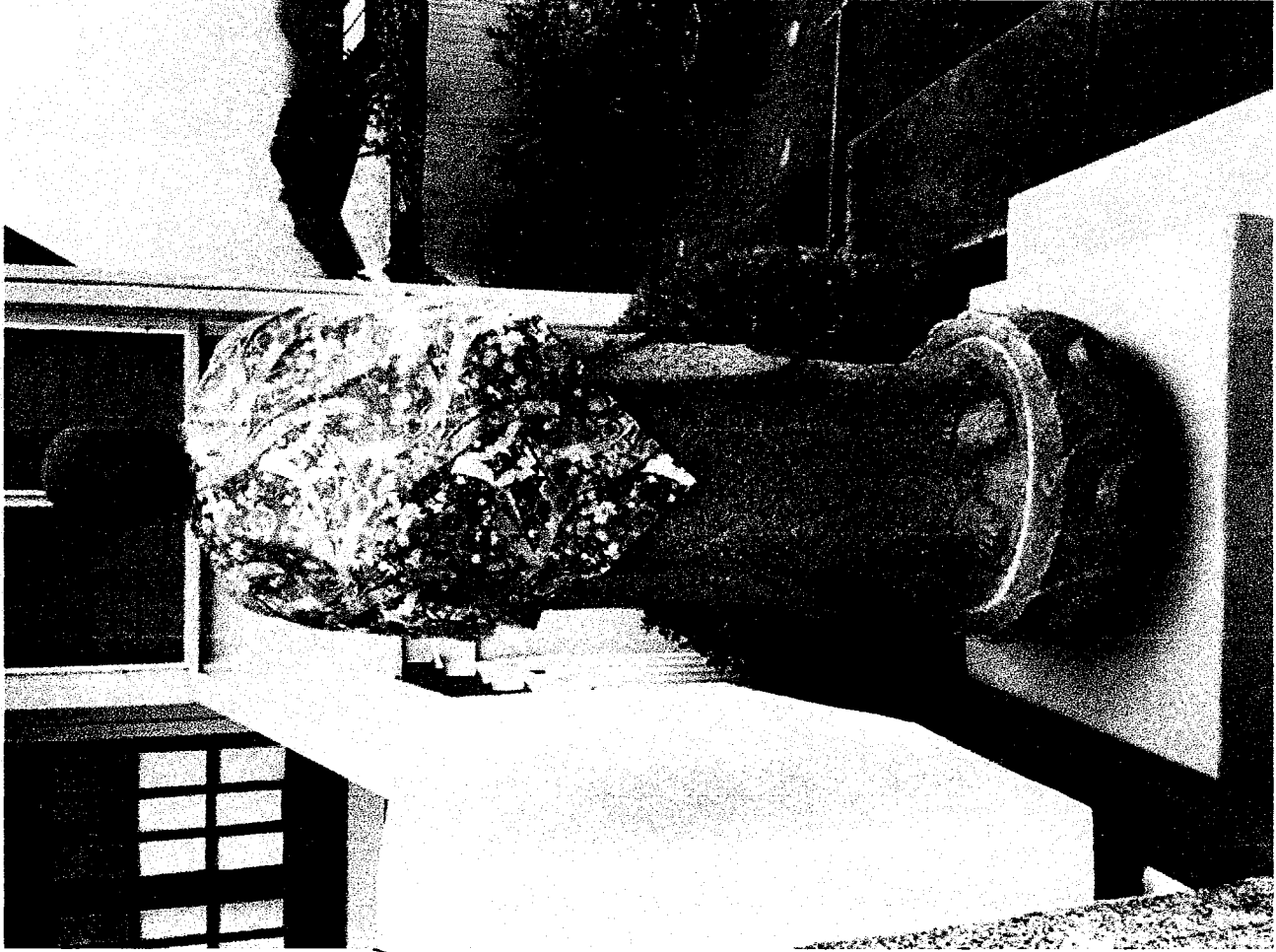


Ojizo sama

Photo of
the "Ojizo sama"
taken

March 14, 2023

Irene E. Matsumoto



Ojizosama enshrined at

Paulea Street
Honolulu, HI 96816

HAWAII ACKNOWLEDGMENT
H.R.S. 502-41(6); H.A.R. 5-11-8

State of Hawaii
 City and County of Honolulu **OR** } ss.
 County of _____

On this 15th day of March, 2023, in the First Circuit, State of Hawaii,
Day Month Year Name of Circuit

before me personally appeared Irene E. Matsumoto (.)
Name of Signer 1

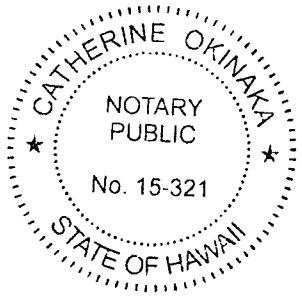
(and _____ (.) to me personally known or proved
Name of Signer 2 (if any)

to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to
this instrument, who, being by me duly sworn or affirmed, did say that he/she executed the foregoing
instrument identified or described as statement of objections prepared for the March 24, 2023 Meeting of the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board as his/her
Type of Document

free act and deed, and if applicable, in the capacity shown having been duly authorized to execute such
instrument in such capacity. The foregoing instrument is dated March 15, 2023 and
Date of Document

contained 5 pages at the time of this acknowledgment/certification.
No. of Pages

Catherine Okinaka



Place Notary Seal or Stamp Above

Printed Name of Notary Public

Notary Public — STATE OF HAWAII

My commission expires: SEP 13 2023

Signature of Notary Public