

EACP Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1:42 PM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: FW: Testimony- County Archaeologist
Attachments: Topic_ Bill in support of County Archaeologist.pdf

From: L Johnson <lalaj@flex.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 1:38 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Testimony- County Archaeologist

Topic: Bill in support of County Archaeologist

Aloha Chair and Council members,

Mahalo for giving this time to voice myself as a Kanaka woman who has seen what has happened when archaeology work or study of the past cultures based on physical evidence and support by research of written records and oral history has become. I lived in the era of when iwi was removed in the sand dunes of my Kupuna's and handled by a group of so called professionals that included an archaeologist, developer, cultural specialist, and Kahuna pule (priest or priestess). I'm from the Ahupua'a o Waiehu. My ancestors have been there over 100's of years. My tutu wahine got the land from her makua's and it is mentioned in the testimony that it is an "ancient land". This is an indicator that our ohana resided there many years.

In the late 1970's early 1980's, our sand was removed from this area with Iwi exposed and removed. Evidence from a written document from our late Charlie Maxwell who mentions that it was just him against a group, Dr. Sinoto, Dr. Emory, Charlie Keau and the Kahuna Pule, Morna Simeona. I mention these names in all respect to what they've done in other places but it wasn't fit for what they had done in Waiehu. Dr. Sinoto was not an archaeologist at that time but was able to dig and classify pottery and "work" like an archaeologist. Dr. Emory was an ethnologist who didn't know the techniques of archaeology. An ethnologist is a branch of anthropology that analyzes and compares [human](#) cultures, as in socialstructure, language, religion, and technology; cultural anthropology. Charlie Keau, a well respected Kanaka Kane that loved his culture as mentioned, was a consultant but not an archaeologist. Kahuna Pule Simeona blessed the place and mentioned sending the spirits to heaven and then giving permission to the developers to remove the sand dunes. Charlie Maxwell mentions in his article how he was emotionally disturbed by this action of how the bones were placed in soda boxes in the Norman's Mortuary by Kay Abdul Developers, and when it would rain the bones would go down the drain. This is an act of inhumane behaviors. History repeats itself...

As mentioned in the 2018 Update: Maui Inland Sand Resource Quantification Study, a decade prior to 2006, an estimated 3,000,000 tons of sand had been excavated with the vast majority of that sand originating from Central Maui. Waiehu is in the central Maui, and our sand along with our Kupuna Iwi had been excavated, torn, scattered, broken apart because of an improper system

that wasn't in place. Developers continue to find their way around to develop and build on kupuna iwi. Archaeological digs for research and academia are rare nowadays, despite the field enjoying the largest job market in the country ever. As Dr. Clark, the archaeologist that was working on The Waihe'e site near the coast mentions, "It's all development. If you want to clear a highway so you can build an expressway or a building or townhouses, you bring your archaeologist in, they clear the right-a-way, you write your report and you go on the next one." Dr. Clark was a rare archaeologist that did his research, despite the the job market. He was able to be part of that removal for the Japanese developers that was not able to develop in the area.

This is why we need to be thorough in our search for an archaeologist that is there for good intentions, and be able to understand the science and culture that needs to be preserved and cultivated for understanding to our generations to come. If this means that we need to have one from the County as the archaeologist...so be it. I ask that the council be mindful of Kanaka perceptions.

The question still remains, how much more lands will be developed that have known ancient Hawaiian burials, and when do our values as Kanaka Maoli prevail? The answer is in the future Hawaiian generation and their commitment in preserving our past for everyone that calls Hawai'i their home.

By: Dr. Clark/Archaeologist

Mahalo Nui,
Lala Johnson