

IEM Committee

From: Erika Lechuga Disalvo <erika.lechugadisalvo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2017 9:58 PM
To: IEM Committee
Subject: IEM-33

Aloha,

My name is Erika Lechuga DiSalvo and i am a full time Maui resident. I am writing to express my support for a moratorium on the exportation of this very important island resource- our sand.

I am no expert in the county and state coding but there are a few issues that seem clear to me as a lay person. The very first concern I have is that the places which our sand is being mined are places of great cultural, historical and archeological significance. These areas are human burial sites. HUMAN. BURIAL. SITES. Not only are these human burial sites but in Hawaii these are sacred places where battles have taken place that need to be preserved. It seems ridiculous to even need to express such sentiment but alas many of us are. No person alive would want to have the resting place of their ancestors desecrated. It is no secret that in Hawaii, there is great reverence and respect for those who have come before us, fro our kupuna. To continue to allow this desecration is a slap in the face of Hawaii as our host culture.

In addition to the lack of sensitivity to cultural significance, sand is absolutely a finite resource and we are running out of it. We cannot continue to export our sand for use in construction and building up other islands. The time has come and gone to start preserving Maui and the resources we have left. Global worming and coastal sea rise are in effect, we are losing our own beaches due to erosion and improper care of our coastlines. We need our sand to stay here.

The following has also been shared with me and it important to mention here.

1) There are several sections of HRS Chapter 6E that grant our County Council (as a political subdivision of the state) the power to detail and regulate preservation activities, historical burial sites, inadvertent discovery of burial sites, excavation of a burial site (and penalties that may be imposed by the BLNR) and penalties for failure to stop work upon discovery.

* 6E-14 (Preservation Activities by Political Subdivisions)

* 6E-15 (Regulations, special conditions or restrictions)

* 6E-43 (Inadvertent Discovery of Burial Sites)

* 6E-72 (Taking, Appropriation, Excavation... of a Burial Site; Penalty)

* 6E-73 (Failure to Stop Work Upon Discovery; Penalty)

It is clearly within the scope of the County Councils power to do something about this. I implore you to issue a moratorium until these sensitive areas are protected and preserved. Mahalo for your time, for acting with integrity and for doing what is pono.

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With Aloha,

Erika Lechuga DiSalvo
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