

EACP Committee

From: Jade Chihara <jchihara@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 1:35 PM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: Testimony for 10/21 EACP-37

Aloha Chair Kama and County Council Members,

My name is Jade Chihara and i was born and raised in Lahaina. The inaction by the County of Maui to protect iwi kūpuna is extremely disappointing and disheartening. The efforts by Council Member Paltin to request an inquiry to the Maui Lānaʻi Island Burial Council was appreciated but to no avail as the County of Maui contiues to allow West Maui Construction to utilize ordinance 2684 section 20.08.031 for their trenching work through documented burial grounds. This has been a community effort from kūpuna, activists, farmers, lawyers, students, and regular human beings just like you and me who are ready and willing to protect these burials in our moku to be desecrated, lest we stand by and repeat the history like that of Ritz Carlton. I ask that you examine the role of the Department of Public Works in expediting the exemptions without a full understandifng of the cultural and archeological sensitivity of the land in which the work will occur.

Mahalo for your time today reading my testimony.

Jade Chihara