

## AH Committee

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**From:** Kahala Johnson, Jr <kahalaj@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 27, 2022 11:53 AM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Subject:** Re: MEO Litigation and Pehuino Heirs

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Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing to you to respond to Debbie Cabebe's statements that were sent to the council by e-mail on January 26, 2021.

The legal heirs of Pehuino have undivided interests in 'Apana 4 of the land commission award to Pehuino. Our family and our ancestors have asserted their claim to this interest for two centuries.

Sadly, MEO has sued our family, contesting our ownership and this matter is presently being litigated in the Second Circuit Court. In this system, this is apparently MEO's right. However, MEO's filing of a lawsuit does not establish their clean title. As Ms. Cabebe's e-mail indicates, the case is currently proceeding in litigation, and the circuit court has yet to resolve the contending claims.

Ms. Cabebe attempts to also litigate this matter before the County Council only complicates the matter. As Ms. Cabebe and MEO are aware, the appropriate forum is the Second Circuit Court, where MEO has chosen to sue our family, and not through press releases, push-piece journalism, or e-mails to elected officials.

In closing, I want to reaffirm my dual conviction: that both affordable housing and Hawaiian kuleana to land can be recognized as part of the genuine security and pono we seek to establish as an island community.

Mahalo for your time.  
Kahala Johnson