

REVOLVING RUBRICS

ASSESSING MOKU'ULA/MOKUHINA IN A WORLD CONTEXT

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MOKU'ULA COMPLEX

- Capitol of the Hawaiian Kingdom, 1837-1845
- Royal palace and private residence of King Kamehameha III
- Lahaina site covered over in 1916 to create park



INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

- Supported at the national government level, often through ministries of culture
- Cultural heritage is considered a strong component of nation identity and a national resource
- Artifacts are almost always property of the state and curated by state employees, often in conjunction with national universities. High level of professionalism and higher education integral component of projects
- Ideal to preserve portions of site for future interpretation for advancing technology



BASILICA OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE, JERUSALEM

Built by Constantine I in 4th century, site of Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus, tomb of Adam, piko of Christian world



ROMAN FORUM

2000 years and counting



BASILICA OF ST. DENIS, PARIS

Burial place of kings of France, first Gothic church, built over previous chapels and Roman temples



POTALA PALACE, LHASA, TIBET

Winter palace of the Dalai Lamas since 1647, built upon older palace of Tibetan emperors. Now part of PRC.

BENEFITS OF STATE SPONSORED RESTORATION

- Little confusion on the ownership of artifacts and historic site properties—they belong to the nation. Eminent domain unquestioned
- As cultural patrimony, historic sites and artifacts can represent the genius of a particular nation-state and serve as an agency to help maintain pride in the historical achievements of the state, national loyalty, and *ethos*.
- Long-term institutional stability of state agencies directly benefits the preservation and maintenance of the historic site and its artifacts.
- Such stability also provides for the development of a professional, career staff in historic preservation and the highest standards of academic competence and education.

LIABILITIES TO STATE SPONSORED RESTORATION

- Expensive. Historic preservation often becomes a large component of a national budget, ultimately requiring greater general taxation (income, hotel tax, value-added tax, etc.) (examples France, Italy)
- Innovation and entrepreneurial inspiration suppressed.
- Sites and collections may become occluded within political machinations resulting in lack of access of same (or worse) for the taxpayer and the visitor (example China, old Soviet Union, etc., ISIS destruction of Palmyra). Interpretation subject to state ideology.

AMERICAN STANDARDS

- Most sites and collections not state supported, unless on federal land. Burden placed on state and local governments and NGOs.
- Thus strong public/private partnerships are characteristic of restoration activity in USA.

BENEFITS

- Reduction in taxpayer burden, competition lowering overall costs
- Entrepreneurial incentives, diverse funding opportunities
- Increase potential for diversity in interpretation: indigenous peoples often lead, grass-root focus.

LIABILITIES

- Potential for delay due to increase in compliance requirements in licensing private sector
- Historic properties and collections often remain in private hands
- Property boundary conflicts
- Burden of funding placed on NGOs through individual and corporate gifts and foundation and government grants, plus earned income revenue.

PARTICULARS FOR SITE OF MOKU'ULA/MOKUHINGIA LOKO

- Most of property held in trust by County of Maui under executive order (Crown Land>Ceded Land>State>County; and Hoapili>Lot Kamehameha>Shaw family>County of Maui)
- The historic site is larger than the current boundaries of Malu'uluolele Park, and includes areas Makai at Kamehameha 'Iki Park, Salvation Army, and development north of Mokuhinia Street. As such, building community bridges to these various entities is essential
- Unique place of legitimization for the Hawaiian kingdom
- As religious site, defies classification, i.e. unique
- Site preservation, restoration, and interpretation always has been led by Native Hawaiian cultural concerns, not the interest of archaeologists
- As residence of King Kamehameha III, seat of Hawaiian government through critical consolidation period and the development of a constitutional government.

PARTICULARS (CONT.)

Site has at least three occupational foci:

1. Pi'ilani era (16th to 18th century)—not proven scientifically but high likely according to oral traditions.
2. Kamehameha era (late 18th to mid-19th century)—Moku'ula as home of Keōpūolani, Nāhi'ena'ena, and Kauikeaouli as King Kamehameha III. Royal palace (Hale Piula, Hale mua, and tomb of the royal family)
3. Late 19th to early 20th century residence on southern portion of island prior to filling of the site in 1916.
4. Any restoration should show segments of all three habitation periods. Similarly, current stakeholders must include not just Pi'ilani family descendants, but Kamehameha/Keoua family members and members of the Shaw family. Thus the configuration of the island and the pond is much more complex than artists' images that have been circulating for years. Suggest that most of the surface of the island continued to be preserved with the fill overburden, except for small segments that might show particular era features. Exposing the perimeter wall surrounded by water, however, is a priority and most likely crosscuts all three habitation periods.

CURRENT ASSESSMENT

- After 23 years, a security fence now encompasses most of the site. This means that with a plan to maintain a security perimeter, archaeological excavation may go forward, followed by the permanent exposure of features such as rock walls, water courses, etc. without the need to cover them for public safety and site integrity. Moku'ula and Mokuhinia are now ready to be revealed.
- County of Maui and State of Hawai'i are being called upon to provide institutional stability for the long term care and maintenance of the site, with the participation of federal cultural and historic preservation agencies (National Historic Site regulations).
- Excavation team is in process of being formed from people who are the foremost experts on the site. More corporate and foundations need to be brought into the public/private partnership that has been in existence for many years. Consideration must be given to staff that can help achieve this, since we are not France, Italy, or China.

PRIORITIES

With the fence in place, two actions take precedence:

1. Site of the royal tomb needs to be plotted precisely and encircled with iron fence similar to Pohukaina Mound on 'Iolani Palace grounds. These two areas, with Mauna 'Ala in Honolulu, are essentially the most sensitive areas of significance to Native Hawaiian people of all known burial sites. The site of the tomb at Moku'ula needs immediate attention.
2. It is probable within a high certainty that portions of the island's perimeter wall is intact along the Front Street frontage. Exposing this would provide a clear sign of progress to the community that the excavations and restorations are proceeding.
3. Both actions may start immediately, without further delay.

NEW DISCOVERIES



Moku'ula and Waine'e Church, ca. 1851



Hale Piula, ca. 1857