

IEM Committee

From: Leinaala Vedder <puniawalei@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2017 6:29 AM
To: IEM Committee
Subject: Testimony for 7-17-17
Attachments: Ala-Testimony.docx

IEM Committee;

Mahalo,
Leinā'ala Kuloloio Vedder

Testimony of Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder
Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee
Maui County Council
July 17, 2017

Good afternoon Chair Cochran and Maui County Councilmembers. My name is Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder. I am testifying on IEM-33. I am a concerned citizen asking the question, why are we here? Is it about the sand or the bones? If this is about the sand, then are we putting a moratorium on everything and all resources? If this is an ‘iwi issue then there is a governing authority to address that issue. Those wanting to be recognized as descendants and claim their “kupuna” in the sand should go through the process. How will you care for them? That particular issue should be brought up to the MIBC (Maui Island Burial Council) and SHPD (State Historic Preservation Division).

Now relating to the sand. Is the moratorium that is proposed on mining inland sand unique in any form or way than other resources of the Hawaiian Islands? Is it different from air, water, topsoil, rocks, and people? Are we now going to put a moratorium on other resources? What is the point? According to the proposed resolution of amending the Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance the point is to *protect, preserve, and regulate the use of inland sand; create a new definition of sand mining; and require permits for sand mining in certain districts*. The issue is to draft a bill *to establish a two-year moratorium on the mining, extraction, stockpiling, and excavation of inland sand*. Therefore, what are the alternatives? Sand is used throughout our islands in roadways, sidewalks, buildings, and homes with slabs that are made from concrete. Will this issue now affect topsoil, lava rock, basalt, and cinder? Which are all materials needed for construction of highways, schools, hospitals, banks, shopping centers, homes, hotels, condominiums, etc. Where is the sand going to come from? Do we bring it in? What will it cost us? Or do we mind the sand that we already have? Will there be systems in place to ensure that the importation of sand does not contain identified or unidentified contaminants, invasive species, or any of the kind that will cause irreparable damage to our Maui. If this is an issue about mining sand then what is the difference between mining sand, top soil, blue rock, and basalt? Burials are not limited to beach sand that has gone inland, also called sand dunes.

Areas disturbed by coastal natural hazards such as high wave action, sea level rise, coastal erosion, wind, and hurricanes expose identified and most times unidentified ‘iwi or skeletal remains along the Hāmākualoa and Hāmākuapoko districts where the public camp, swim, surf, windsurf, walk, run, and enjoy. Shouldn’t you be concerned about those remains? Whose kūpuna are they? Who and what entity (ies) has been actively caring for them all these years? Burials are not limited to sand. Is this an issue of sand being sacred? Are we going to put a moratorium on the rocks that are being used for rock walls? What should happen to those who displace them? Where will it stop, where will it start?

This is the question posed to everyone here today, including the County Council and not limited to this committee whose members are elected by the public and are held to the highest standards of ethical conduct to the end that the public may justifiably have trust, and confidence in the integrity of the government.

How much metric tons of dust and topsoil has been blown away in preparation to grow pineapple and sugar cane. Has a moratorium ever been placed on the millions of metric tons of topsoil that was blown away by the harvesting and tilling by the pineapple and sugar industry? Let us tell the mo‘olelo of those areas?

Where do we go from here?

Mahalo.