

Amy Halas
PO Box 331370
Kahului, Hawai'i 96733

Oct. 30, 2017

Honorable Elle Cochran, Chair
Council of the County of Maui
County of Maui
200 South High Street
Floor 8
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

Dear Chair Cochran:

I wish to remind the IEM Committee that the 2002 Maui County Council Wailuku Community Plan (2002) identifies the Pu'uone Sand Dunes Formation from Kahului Harbor to Waikapu as a wahi pana (significant traditional places) in the list of significant Wailuku-Kahului regional sites and areas on p. 17.

In addition, Mayor Alan Arakawa states in his July 7, 2017, Maui News Viewpoint column, I am also discussing a commitment from HC&D President Wade Wakayama to stop sand mining. He concludes with the following, "HC&D and Maui Lani LLC realize that what this study concluded almost 10 years ago is even more relevant today, which is why I believe both entities will agree to refrain from mining and exporting sand off-island. It makes sense for everyone to protect what remains of this important resource."

On page 10 of the Maui Inland Sand Resource Quantification Study that was prepared for the Maui County Department of Public Works & Environmental Management by Howard Hanzawa of SSFM International. in February 2006 states, "Most of the inland sand dune areas are no longer available for excavation." On page 11, Mr. Hanzawa writes, "On the island of Maui, there is a high probability of iwi being buried in the sand dunes."

Therefore, the notion of utilizing this sand for playground, golf or for any other purpose is culturally offensive and improper.

We need to preserve what little remains of the Maui Pu'uone Inland Sand Dunes as they represent the topography that informs of us the past. The legal protections afforded to the burials and other historic properties as legislated in the HRS 6E and Hawai'i Administrative Rules must take precedence over the so-called rights of the private land owners.

How and why do we continue to see the land owners conducting earth altering activities on very historically and culturally sensitive areas with known burials and SIHP (State Inventory of Historic Preservation) sites?

We recently witnessed one such situation on Lower Main Street in Wailuku. In that vicinity, there is a private property owner has repeatedly over the years asked permission from the Maui Lāna‘i Island Burial Council to conduct earth altering activities on his adjacent lot. The Burial Council continually refused to grant permission because this area is known to contain Iwi Kūpuna. In fact the owner was informed that if any earth altering activities occurred that it would require an Archaeological Inventory Survey and the presence of an on-site archaeologist during such activity. We therefore were shocked to see a bulldozer operator commence grading and clear this area. There was no notification to the Burial Council or to the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD). Worse still, SHPD was unable to intervene during the bulldozing activity.

The proposed Sand Mining Moratorium is desperately needed to re-evaluate the 2006 Sand Study. It must also be enacted in order for the County and the State to clarify their respective responsibilities towards their stewardship and protection of historic properties such as Iwi Kūpuna. For the sake of our children and their children, the long held practice and tradition of obliterating sand dunes and forever altering the storied topography must end.

I urge the Maui County Council to vote for the passage of the Sand Mining Moratorium.

Most Sincerely,

Amy Halas