

PEA Committee

From: La'a Poepoe <poepoelaa@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 10:38 PM
To: PEA Committee; Kelly King; Yukilei Sugimura; Riki Hokama; Elle Cochran; Stacy S. Crivello
Cc: Phillips, Andrew K.; Mahina Lopes; Malia Akutagawa; Keani Rawlins
Subject: 2019 MAUI COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (PEA-4(2))

To the Maui County Council/PEA committee,

Subject:

MAUI COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (2019 MAUI COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE) (PEA-4(2)) APPROVING FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2019 MAUI COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE A STATE BILL TO ALLOW PRE-CONTACT NATIVE HAWAIIAN BURIAL SITES TO BE DEDICATED AS CEMETERIES.

Here are my responses to the questions provided in an email to the Molokai island burial council:

1. *How would you define "pre-contact"?* **"The period prior to and including the year 1778." H.A.R. section 13-300-2. This definition should not interfere with or discredit any other traditional native Hawaiian burial sites conducted at any time during the post-contact historic era. If this consideration cannot be met through the current draft, I recommend amendments to the wording of the proposal, or otherwise removing the term "pre-contact".**
2. *How would lineal descendants of a native Hawaiian person interred in a pre-contact burial be identified?* **Public notice. I recommend adding to the proposed draft the inclusion of cultural descendants as claimants.**
3. *Should it be necessary for records of remains interred within a pre-contact native Hawaiian burial to be kept?* **Please take into consideration that for the pre-contact Hawaiian culture, recordkeeping was maintained through oral history, in the absence of a written language. Unless somehow previously identified and inventoried, additional records should not be necessary as a mandatory requirement for iwi located within the boundary of traditional native Hawaiian burial sites, in an effort to prevent unnecessary exposure of iwi, or intentional excavation of burial sites. Consultation with claimants should be conducted to determine an appropriate burial treatment plan.**
4. *If passed by the State Legislature, who do you envision will be responsible for handling this at the State level?* **SHPD Island burial councils.**

Please consider this my recommendations as an individual representative of the Molokai island burial council.

La'a Poepoe,

Molokai Island Burial Council, Interim West Molokai District Representative.