

CULTURAL

less money
from city
have, too bad
I don't hear you testimony
to have a chance on a cross?
Ellen Blesde
635 Onaha St.
Honolulu 96816

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL OF HONOLULU
April 1, 1987

Hawaii-Kai Special Management Area Use Permit (PH 87-50)
Resolution 87-65 (CD1)

The Honorable Arnold Morgado, Chairman and Members of the Honolulu City Council, Aloha 'auinala. I am Malcolm Naea Chun, Cultural Affairs Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. However, I am submitting this testimony to you as a concerned citizen.

I would like to draw your attention to the historic and cultural background of the proposed area for this permit use. In November of 1984, a feasibility study was conducted by the Department of Anthropology of the Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum, for the Department of Parks and Recreation for a study on the Queen's Beach area.

According to this feasibility study, it was noted that the High Chief Keeaumoku, who was Kaahumanu's father and the chief's most responsible for Kamehameha's successes in warfare, died in this area in 1804. It was reported by the Hawaiian historian, Samuel M. Kamakau, that Kamehameha and Kaahumanu both came to this area to be with her father during his last days.

However, recent research in Hawaiian language newspapers has discovered that at that time, Kaahumanu's brother, Kahekili Keeaumoku, gathered his resources of Waialua, Ewa on the island of Oahu and from Maui to pay tribute to Kamehameha at Awawamalu Beach which is in the vicinity of this proposed area. It is said in these articles that between one thousand to four thousand people gathered to pay tribute to the King. It is also reported that a later tribute was given to King Kamehameha III by Kaahumanu's brother probably due to the death of his father, the death of Kamehameha in 1819, and the death of Kamehameha II in London. At that time, an equal amount of people had gathered to pay tribute to the King. Amongst the goods given to the King were reported feather capes, pigs, pearls, and other treasures of Hawaiian society.

These events would, therefore, indicate that the proposed area for development may encroach or be upon the very areas in which the above historical events occurred. These historical events are extremely significant in Hawaiian history as well as for contemporary Hawaiian life. Firstly, it was in this area that Keeaumoku designates his own daughter Kaahumanu to Kamehameha as being the only threat to his consolidated kingdom. Thereafter, the rise in power by Kaahumanu and her cousins in Hawaiian history becomes unique. Secondly, for Hawaiians today, the examples of tribute given in this area confirm Hawaiian practices of ho'okupu of gift giving.

A recent illegal excavation of a site at Queen's Beach yielded fishhooks, ulumaika, and other Hawaiian treasures and indicates that this area ~~is~~ still yields valuable information about our ancestral past.

The proposed development in this area may disturb the grounds in which the above historical events had occurred. And thereby further obliterate this important and valuable part of Hawaiian history. For many years, this area was considered to be desolate ranch land but the above events that I have just described indicated ~~to~~ ^{an area} rich with Hawaiian life and culture.

I therefore urge the City Council to reconsider the proposed permit usage and consider what was proposed by the Queen's Beach feasibility study in keeping these areas open space for public usage and appreciation.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify before the Council.