

Chairperson Tungpalan and members of the Senate Committee on Culture, Arts and Historical Preservation. Aloha kakou. My name is Davianna Pomaika'i McGregor. I am an assistant professor in the Ethnic Studies Program at UH, Manoa. I am testifying as a member of Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei in support of S.B. 714, to appropriate money for the purchase of the Honokahua burial site at Kapalua Maui. Please note that the bill, as worded, has the wrong place name for the burial site. The burial site is at Honokahua, not Honokohau, another bay of West Maui.

Honokahua, one of the six bays of Pi'ilani on West Maui, remained peaceful and undisturbed until Maui Land and Pine began to desecrate the bones of our kupuna in 1974. The coastal sand dunes served as the final resting place for Hawaiian people who lived in the Honolua-Honokahua district from 900 A.D. through the 1800's.

In his writings in the Ke Au 'Oko'a for 1870, the Hawaiian historian, Samuel Kamakau noted that also, directly mauka of Honokohau, Honolua and Honokahua was a common burial place for the people who lived in the district from Lahaina to Kahakuloa. The place was named Waiuli. Traditionally, the Western side of our islands were selected as a proper location for the burial of loved ones.

In 1516, Honokahua was linked with the rest of the district of Maui by the Alaloa trail constructed by Kiha-a-Pi'ilani. In 1738, the Maui warriors of Pele-io-holani defended Honokahua against the invading forces of Alapa'i of Hawai'i. Then, in 1795, Kamehameha I gave the conquered lands of Honokahua to Isaac Davis, his British military adviser. His granddaughter, Kale Davis inherited the land rights and claimed it during the Great Mahele. Later the lands were incorporated into the Campbell Estate which sold it to Baldwin in 1890. For a while the land was used for stables.

In 1963, Baldwin Packers merged with Maui Land & Pineapple Company which assumed title to the Honokahua lands. In 1973, the sand dunes were recognized to be consecrated and sacred burial ground following an archaeological site survey of the district. In 1974, the Honokahua burial ground was placed on the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places. Surprisingly, in

that same year, Maui Land & Pine began destruction of the burials by removing sand containing bone fragments for the Kapalua Golf Course.

In June 1986, Maui Land & Pine placed an ad in the Maui News. Colin Cameron, president and owner of Maui Land & Pine, also owns Maui News. The ad announced Cameron's intention to dig up the burial ground. Maui Land & Pine plans to expand the Kapalua Resort to include the Honokahua shoreline burial site where a 450 room exclusive, luxury class Carlton-Ritz Hotel will be built for \$80 million.

Since March 1987, over 1,000 bodies of Hawaiian men, women and children have been dug up so that the hotel could be built. The work is being carried out by the archaeological firm of Paul Rosendahl and Associates, which will receive a total of \$4 million for digging up the graves of our Hawaiian kupuna. The gravedigging is made legally possible through permits issued by the State Department of Health. The construction of the hotel on the site is legally sanctioned under a Shoreline Management Area permit issued by the Maui County Planning Commission which expires on February 27, 1989.

On December 23, 1988 the digging at Honokahua was stopped in response to the concerns raised by a number of Hawaiian organizations and individuals from every island which has now incorporated into Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei and with the cooperation of a special task force appointed by Governor John Waihee. We have a three-point program which has received the backing of hundreds who have signed our petitions. First, no more bones should be dug up from Honokahua. Second, those bones already removed must be returned to their original resting place together with their belongings. Third, the Honokahua site should be permanently preserved and dedicated as a burial ground.

In order for the excavation of the burials at Honokahua to be permanently halted and to have the site dedicated as a burial ground, it will may be necessary for the state to purchase the site and for this reason we support S.B. 714.