

Name: Ma'alaea Village Association
Agenda Item: B.1 Goal 2.5 |
Responsible Stewardship of Wahi
Kūpuna and Historic Properties
Date Received: 2/26/23 via email



February 24, 2023

To: South Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee Members

RE: 2.5 GOAL: RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF WAHI KUPUNA AND HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Aloha Chair Weltman and SMCPAC Members:

Ma'alaea Village Association (MVA) would like to add 1) Restoration of Pu'u Hele cinder cone and 2) Recognition of the historic value and need to enhance Lahaina Pali Trail. With new appreciation for Maui's past, restoration of Pu'u Hele and expansion of the Lahaina Pali Trail would be valuable additions to Maui's colorful historical record.

Pu'u Hele:

In days past, Pu'u Hele served as a major landmark for Hawaiians traveling across the central valley. Major myths have been written about this 66 ft cinder cone. Pu'u Hele was mined for its cinders during WW II until it was reduced to a pit and later used as a construction debris landfill. Pu'u Hele at its strategic location at the intersection of Honoapiilani Highway and N. Kihei Road should be respectfully restored in consultation with kanaka organizations and knowledgeable community members and stake holders.

Lahaina Pali Trail:

Called "Kealaloloa" in ancient times, the Lahaina Pali Trail was once the only route between Lahaina and Ma'alaea. Known for its panoramic views of Ma'alaea Bay and the central valley, the trail traverses across the West Maui Mountains from Ma'alaea to the West Maui coast along Honoapiilani Highway. This historic trail is one of the most popular trails on Maui. New signage, additional parking and easy access would enable newfound interest and increased appreciation for its historical significance.

In addition to these two specific recommendations, we also recommend a third action: Funding to support each community's efforts to share their past via signage and mo'olelo to educate Maui residents and visitors on the role they played in Maui's colorful past.

Mahalo, and Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tapani Vuori', is written over a horizontal line.

Tapani Vuori, Vice President, MVA

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