

Name: Leinā‘ala Vedder

Agenda Item: E. Other Committee Business

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September 12, 2023

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Aloha mai kākou,

‘O wau ‘o Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder, he kama nō wau ‘o Honua‘ula, Hāmākuapoko, a me Hāmākualoa. My ‘ohana have lived and died in Ko Hawai‘i Pae ‘Āina since time immemorial. I am the Vice-President of Keauhou o Honua‘ula, Inc. As the vice-president of Keauhou o Honua‘ula, Inc. I was shocked and disturbed when I found out that our ‘āina, our pu‘uhonua in Mo‘oloa located at 6597 Makena Road and designated as TMK No. (II) 2-1-005:123 (“Parcel 123”) was the topic of debate for this committee at your September 6 CPAC meeting.

The mission of Keauhou o Honua‘ula is embedded in Kanaka ‘Ōiwi kuana‘ike (Indigenous Hawaiian perspective) grounded in ‘ike kupuna that have been passed on for generations. Our ‘āina is a pu‘uhonua. It is a sanctuary, a safe haven, a place of refuge, a place of peace and safety.

Kūpuna of Honua‘ula whose traditional and cultural customary rights were violated in the 1980’s when the then Prince Hotel prohibited continued access from ma uka to ma kai along Ke Alaloa o Pi‘ilani, Pi‘ilani Trail. They lived to see their blood sweat and tears pay off with the preservation of Ke Alaloa o Pi‘ilani and continued gathering rights. However, many have passed and continue to be guiding us every part of the way till today. Those kūpuna who have passed on are: my father protector of land, ‘iwi, and access Leslie Apiu Aipalena Kuloloio, my grandmother Alice Akuna Kuloloio, grandfather Wallace Aipalena Kuloloio, grand aunt Helen Kuamo‘o Peters, grand uncle Edward Chang Sr., aunty Mabel Maipela Wong, aunty Alice Kapohakimohewa, kahu David Kawika Ka‘alakea, respected kanaka ‘ōiwi archaeologist uncle Charles Keau, uncle Ned Goodman, Kumu Hula aunty Hōkūlani Holt, educated land, resource, and ‘ōiwi rights activist Dana Naone Hall, and community rights champion Jodi Mitchell. Their legacy has been entrusted to the Board Members of Keauhou and the ‘ohana who live on this pu‘uhonua. My Ferreira ‘ohana’s ‘āina is ma uka of our pu‘uhonua. Their ‘āina should be in consideration as well.

In the past 25 years, our pu‘uhonua is a hālau, a cultural and educational center for multi-generational groups such as Pūnana Leo o Maui, Kula Kaiapuni o Maui, Ka Hālau Kekuaokala‘au‘ala‘iliahi, Maui a Kama of the University of Hawai‘i Maui and Mānoa Campus, The Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana, The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, the crew of the Hōkūle‘a before their World-Wide Voyage in 2013. Our ‘āina was blessed to be the gathering place for over 400 ‘ohana and friends of Honua‘ula and throughout Hawai‘i to celebrate the life and legacy of one of Maui’s famous paniolo, my uncle, Henry Kealoha Hanalei Wong in 2017. It is a place to kilo and observe weather patterns for fishermen, botanists, astrologists, geologists,

archaeologists, teachers, students, and navigators. It is a cultural repository that has been kept as a pu'uhonua under the protection of Keauhou o Honua'ula, Inc. It's location is a kīpuka, an oasis for recently displaced 'ohana who have spent time to heal and disconnect from the chaos of current events. We are very selective of those who occupy the sanctity of our pu'uhonua.

Infrastructure is in place that includes irrigation to water our mai'a, niu, lilikoi, oranges, limes, 'ulu, mangoes, kukui, peppermint, noni, tomatoes, kale, and other flora. Fencing to protect our keiki, plants, and 'ohana, and a modest shelter to house our kūpuna from the heat in Mo'oloa. Our 'āina is maintained and well taken care of as well as the Ferreira's property, they are my 'ohana that is ma uka of us.

My recommendation is that this committee agree and support the Community Plan land use designation of "Residential" shown for this Parcel on the "CPAC recommended map" and on the "Updated Department Recommended Map" for Subarea 5: Makena on the September 6, 2023 Committee Agenda. Also, I recommend that this committee accept the written testimony of our attorney Isaac Hall received on 9/5/2023 via email. It is difficult when Western terms are constantly erasing the correct land designation terms used in Hawaiian before colonization.

I will make myself available in person on September 13, 2023 to answer any questions that you may have.

Mahalo,
Leinā'ala Kuloloio Vedder
Vice-President, Keauhou o Honua'ula, Inc.