

SCR136/SR72

LATE

TESTIMONY

Aloha Committee Chair(s),

My name is Jessica Oilipuaokaleieha Kaikaina and I am a native Hawaiian, a Hawaiian Civic Club member, a graduate of the Kamehameha Schools, and a “practitioner” of our Hawaiian Culture and way of life.

I think I may be in support of this measure if the Royal Order of Kamehameha is required to consult with the families and community organizations of Napo’opo’o, the organizations as listed, as well as other individuals and groups who will observe, perpetuate, preserve, and continue practicing our Native Hawaiian culture ways, ancient and living, and who therefore should have an understanding of our cultural traditions, rituals, and customs and associated protocols, sensitivities, and nuances as a kanaka maoli would normally. Also, I was made aware that the Royal Order of Kamehameha was given kuleana at Ka’awaloa (in a curatorship) which may not have been completed to date. I ask that the successful completion of this task be one of several pre-requisites before a much more sizable kuleana as bcoming KONOHIKI is even considered and/or granted. This should be of self-explanatory.

I thank you for allowing my testimony in this matter. I hope that amendments are made that will take my mana’o into consideration.

Aloha and Mahalo, ‘o wau no,
Jessica Oilipuaokaleieha Kaikaina

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COMMENTS ON SCR 136

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DESIGNATE THE ROYAL ORDER OF KAMEHAMEHA AS THE KONOHIKI OF KA'AWALOA TO HAVE OVERSIGHT AND MANAGEMEMENT OF KA'AWALOA AND TO FORMULATE A MASTER PLAN FOR KA'AWALOA.

Committee on Water and Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
March 24, 2014, 1:00 PM, Conference Room 225

Aloha Madame Chairs Shimabukuro and Solomon, Vice Chairs Hee and Galuteria, and members of both Committees. My name is Shane Nelsen, and I am lifelong resident of Kealahou Bay and a member of the Kuakini Hawaiian Civic Club of Kona. After seeking mana'o from resident kupuna within the Napoopoo Village at Kealahou Bay, a collaborative voice agreed to provide comment on SCR 136.

The residents understand and acknowledge that the DLNR has oversight of the Kealahou Bay State Historic Park to which it includes some of Ka'awaloa and Kealahou parcels on these ahupua'a. The term Konohiki as describe in Pukui & Elbert's Hawaiian Dictionary gives authority of oversight and report to a "chief". Several concerns were raised:

1. Seems like another bureaucracy. More "red tape" and hoops to hurdle. Why is DLNR giving this up to the Royal Order of Kamehameha? What will the roles of DLNR, State Parks, and Royal Order of Kamehameha have?
2. The Royal Order of Kamehameha, Hale Mua, Inc. had a curatorship program for seven years, with DLNR, and was supposed to clear historic sites, and put signs up. Very minimal work was completed and the goals were not accomplished. These sites continue to be desecrated by permitted and unpermitted kayakers and hikers. Before giving a Konohiki title, we recommend another five (5) years curatorship program.
3. The resolution should establish boundaries within the State Park, and that the term Konohiki should be used for a collaborative group to include, with priority, the descendants and families of Ka'awaloa/Napoopoo Village, and other Native Hawaii Organizations and Stakeholders. And that all efforts and meetings are conducted at the Kealahou Bay State Historic Park's Pavilion in Napoopoo Village, where the subject matter is located.

The task requested by the DLNR to the Royal Order of Kamehameha is to develop a master plan paid for by the DLNR. Several concerns were raised, and some of the residents consulted felt the following:

1. For many years, the kupuna of Kealahou Bay and residents created plans. Some of these plans date back to 1969, as far current as 2005. Lots of money was spent with Belt

Collins, and a lot of kupuna mana'o was incorporated. This resolution does not clarify if existing plans will be incorporated.

2. The issue was not related to planning. The next steps should be taken and funding for execution and sustaining the "Park" plans has always been a long standing issue with DLNR. We feel, as Konohiki, the Royal Order of Kamehameha will still answer to a "Chief" (DLNR or BLNR), and without financial support and budget to execute any kind of plans should be the focus.
3. The residents lost the usage of Napoopoo Wharf to State Park's program to identify users. Yet, the community was the entity that advocated to rid it of drug addicts, and cleaned it up only to have it taken away from State Parks. Our kupuna cannot go to Ka'awaloa unless we drive them to Keauhou or Honaunau, or carry them over unsafe areas, yet we live right there in the village. There is no safe passage. We are concerned of how Ka'awaloa will be available to the residents and customary practices that have not been restored to the Hawaiian families since 1969, that reside in Kealakekua Bay.

We hope this legislation will provide an avenue for the generational residents of Kealakekua Bay, to complete the next steps that their Kupuna have left behind in the various planning stages of Kealakekua Bay State Historical Park, in which the ahupua'a of Ka'awaloa resides in.

I thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. *Shane Nelsen*: shane.nelsen@gmail.com or cell: 808-989-5462.