



November 30, 2010

Dale Bonar, Chair
Legacy Land Conservation Commission
1151 Punchbowl Street, Suite 325
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Bonar and Commission Members:

Aloha 'Āina 'O Kamilo Nui is a non-profit community organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the land, natural and cultural resources of Kamilo Nui Valley and the East Honolulu area. Aloha 'Āina 'O Kamilo Nui embraces the Hawaiian values of "aloha 'āina" and "mālama 'āina" (love and care for the land) and strives to protect and perpetuate the 'āina and its cultural resources for the benefit of future generations.

East O'ahu has long had significance in the history and mythology of the islands. Van James, author of Ancient Sites of O'ahu, states:

Between the O'ahu Club and the Hawai'i Kai Post Office, where Mariners Ridge comes down to near sea level, is one of the few remaining areas in Hawai'i Kai where remnants of ancient Hawaiian history can still be observed. In amongst the brush of this undeveloped property is a small swampy area surrounded by a stand of mature coconut trees. Below the swaying palms is an ancient spring and an old lava rock well. The circular well is in good condition, having been

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restored with cement in the early twentieth century, and the water from the spring, though not drinkable keeps the adjacent wetland active year-round with visits by the endangered 'alae 'ula.

About fifty feet east of the old well and twenty feet up the gently sloping lava rock of Mariners Ridge, Kaluanui in Hawaiian, lies the petroglyph of a fish. Carved in typical outline fashion, this single rock engraving seems most appropriate for an area so close to a major fishpond. It might indicate the kind of offerings that were made at the nearby heiau or temple, now destroyed. Hawea Heiau, originally located near the petroglyph, may have been named for the famous drum brought by La'amai Kahiki from the South Pacific home of early Hawaiians.

According to Patricia Price-Beggerly and J.R. McNeill who surveyed the area in 1985, the “wholesale loss of cultural resources tends to accentuate the value of the few remaining sites in an area important to Hawaiian culture as reflected in its traditions and history. This makes it even more important that the cultural resources which are left be recovered or preserved.” The acquisition of the Hāwea Heiau Complex and Keawaawa Wetlands by the Trust for Public Lands and the Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui will preserve some of the very last remaining cultural resources in our community.

Mahalo for your kōkua.

'O au iho nō me ke aloha,



Jeannine Johnson