



KO`OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

October 22, 2018

HHF Planners
733 Bishop Street, Suite 2590
Honolulu, HI 96813
Attn: Mr. Ronald Saito, Senior Associate

Re: Comments on Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery Expansion Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Aloha to Mr. Saito, Representatives of Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan, Ltd., State and County Officials:

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club sends its aloha to all of you as you deliberate over the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the expansion plan of Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery.

Our civic club is comprised of members who live primarily in the nine ahupua`a of the Kane`ohe Bay region, from Mokapu to Kualoa. Most of our members live in Kane`ohe, and many of our members have relatives who are buried at Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery.

We have reviewed the draft EIS thoroughly, and we remain convinced that the project is a good one and should be allowed to proceed. When our members first reviewed the original plan offered by the Cemetery about 10 years ago, we noted several concerns both for our members and for residents of the area immediately adjacent to the project area.

Because Kawa`ewa`e Heiau is located within the Cemetery's property, it was among our major concerns. Over the years, our members have visited the heiau for traditional and cultural purposes, and wished to ensure that this important cultural complex would be preserved. The heiau is believed to have been built by O`ahu Chief Olopana, who succeeded La`amaikahiki as chief of the moku.

We have continued to monitor an ongoing evolution of planning for the Cemetery's efforts to expand the Cemetery capacity. As a result, the landowner has invited our civic club to participate with them in cultural consultation and planning for preservation of the heiau complex. We are very impressed with their work to conduct additional archaeological surveys and expanded cultural consultations with ourselves and other cultural practitioners familiar with Kawa`ewa`e heiau.

Initially, when the first proposal was offered by Hawaiian Memorial years ago, our members deliberated over whether we should support the project. The two primary concerns raised by members were the impact on our wahi kapu (the heiau) and questions raised by residents about potential for flooding. Subsequently, we checked with the Department of Planning & Permitting and were informed that the landowner had prepared an acceptable plan to address flooding issues.

Following our civic club's discussions, our members voted to support the initial proposal offered by Hawaiian Memorial Park. A key reason is that we felt it was important to ensure expansion of the Kane`ohe cemetery so that members and their families would be able to join their departed family members with burials at Hawaiian Memorial.

Now, 10 years later, we have reviewed this latest proposal by Hawaiian Memorial to expand the cemetery. We wish to note that this plan is a remarkable improvement over the first plan they proposed and brought before the Honolulu DPP and the State Land Use Commission.

They have addressed the *cultural concerns* by proposing to establish a cultural preserve in the Kawa`ewa`e heiau complex and will involve our civic club in the planning and management of this important wahi kapu. As part of this work, they conducted additional archaeological surveys and added to the knowledge of the history of this area. An important note: none of the Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club members have a financial interest in this proposal.

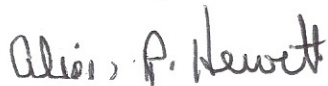
They have addressed the *flooding concerns* to meet the City's drainage requirements.

They have conducted *traffic studies* to answer questions about traffic impacts from additional gravesites, and additional studies regarding *endangered species*. We are informed that they are working on a plan to protect the single native species they found – damsel flies – with fencing or other measures. And they answered the questions regarding the *urban boundary* and *Ko`olau Poko Sustainable Communities Plan*.

In our view, Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery Life Plan, Ltd., has done an exceptional job preparing this new proposal for expansion and we commend them and their consultants for the important improvements made on the project.

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club hereby **strongly recommends** acceptance and approval of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement offered by Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan, Ltd.

Me kealoha pumehana,



ALICE P. HEWETT
President

The Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club was established in 1937 and is one of the largest in the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs nationwide. Ko`olaupoko HCC is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history, heritage and culture of Native Hawaiians and providing leadership and scholarships. Its membership is open to people of Hawaiian ancestry and those who are "Hawaiian at heart."