

**From:** [Winston Welch](#)  
**To:** [Derrickson, Scott A](#)  
**Cc:** [Winston Welch](#)  
**Subject:** The Outdoor Circle Statewide Office opposition to proposed expansion of Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery testimony--please confirm receipt  
**Date:** Friday, October 19, 2018 12:46:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [PastedGraphic-2.png](#)  
[Scott Derrickson Letter from TOC on Hawaiian Memorial Expansion Opposition.pdf](#)

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Dear Mr Derrickson,

Please find a letter that indicates the opposition of the Statewide Outdoor Circle with respect to the proposed Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery expansion and reclassification of conservation lands.

May I ask that you kindly confirm receipt of this letter?

Thanks so much,

Winston

Winston Welch  
Executive Director

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Helping to keep Hawai'i  
clean, green, and beautiful  
since 1912



Scott Derrickson,  
State of Hawaii  
Land Use Commission, DBEDT  
P.O. Box 2359  
Honolulu, HI 96804

October 18, 2018

Re: Statewide Outdoor Circle Opposition to Hawaiian Memorial Park  
Expansion project

Dear Mr Derrickson,

The Statewide Office of The Outdoor Circle wishes to express our opposition to the proposed expansion of the Hawaiian Memorial Park and reclassification of conservation lands being proposed. We do not feel that such a reclassification would be good state stewardship of the lands nor do we believe that such a reclassification would be consistent with the Hawaii State Constitution to "conserve and protect" Hawaii's natural resources. We would therefore ask that you maintain the existing classification of the lands.

We have an official statement from our board opposing the expansion that is still in effect from May of 2011 (and listed below) when a similar expansion was proposed, but the reasons are numerous because of the detrimental effects it would have on the environment, loss of beauty, and conservation land zoned for protection.

Affecting the entire ahupua'a from the ridge to the shore, neighborhoods, the Kawa Stream, Kaneohe Bay and its fish ponds, we would reject this proposal on many grounds.

The resultant destruction of native plant and animal ecosystems, destruction of a scenic landscape for Kailua, increase in potential flooding caused by loss of vegetation and existing plants and loss of critical watershed elements of the Kawa Stream and an under-capacity of retention ponds are all significant reasons for our opposition to this plan. The proposal would also most probably lead to impact of increased run-off to Kaneohe Bay and resultant contamination of waters there. In addition, the use of pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides on the grounds will lead to environmental degradation and contamination, especially of concern to area residents in Piloiloa.

The Outdoor Circle Board has the following position to the project that remains in effect today:

## **Resolution of the Board of Directors of The Outdoor Circle**

**Whereas:** Hawaii is a small state with limited land on each island, and

**Whereas:** The Outdoor Circle's mission is to keep Hawaii "clean, green, and beautiful," and

**Whereas:** In order to protect portions of the islands, certain "qualified lands" have been designated for protection by the State and/or its counties, and

**Whereas:** These "qualified lands" are identified by Hawaii state and county governments with terms such as "Conservation," "Prime Agricultural," "Park," "Preservation" and Open Space, and

**Whereas:** Land owners or their representatives periodically petition the State Land Use Commission to convert these "qualified lands" from agricultural, conservation or similar uses to other classifications with more intensive land use that could lead to urban sprawl, and

**Whereas:** Conversion of "qualified lands" to more intensive uses can lead to the deterioration or destruction of those lands and thereby detract from Hawaii's natural and scenic beauty, and

**Whereas:** The Hawaii State Constitution, Art. XI, Sec. 1, provides: "For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State,"

**Now therefore** be it resolved that The Outdoor Circle shall support efforts to sustain existing "qualified land" classifications and their currently designated acceptable uses in Hawaii, except as otherwise directed by the Board of Directors.

As approved by The Outdoor Circle Board of Directors at its May 2011 Board Meeting.

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The Outdoor Circle would also strongly refute the findings of the DEIS that says there would be no effect on air quality, erosion, etc. This is not only common sense, but a basic understanding of land management and science that when an area is deforested and a natural canopy and environment is destroyed as proposed, these results are certain and lead to detrimental effects such as those listed above.

Other cemeteries on Oahu, like Punchbowl and Diamond Head Cemeteries, have also run out of ground land space and have addressed the problem by building low columbarium mounds. As a society, we also need to be more realistic about the supply of land being limited, and the use of open land for in-ground burials is no longer feasible in urban areas, especially when those lands are being proposed to be reclassified from important conservation lands.

From a public policy viewpoint and the many reason mentioned in this letter, there is not a compelling public interest case for expansion in light of taking of very important conservation lands.

We ask that you reject a reclassification of these conservation lands and keep them as is for all residents in perpetuity as they have been intended to be.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Winston Welch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Winston" and last name "Welch" clearly distinguishable.

Winston Welch  
Executive Director