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LAND USE COMMISSION
STATE OF HAWAII

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the Hawaiian Memorial Park Expansion EIS plan. With so much concern over expanding the cemetery into conservation land, the increased possibility and worry over future flooding should development be allowed (especially in the wake of climate change and increasing potential of damage from more powerful storms and rain events), as well as concern over the protection of the ancient Hawaiian Kawa`ewa`e heiau site and complex, I am moved to wonder whether there is extensive evidence that Hawaiian Memorial Park has actively researched and, indeed, offered alternative burial practices and methods that are environmentally friendly and require little to no further land requirements.

As I understand it, Hawaiian Memorial Park's claim for pushing the cemetery into conservation land and causing so much anxiety for local residents, is because "they are running out of room." Since the Honolulu City and County's decision to turn down Hawaiian Memorial Park's expansion application a decade ago, is there any evidence that Hawaiian Memorial Park has bothered to research burial methods that do not require new land acquisition? Is there evidence that they have given serious and exhaustive consideration to alternative burial methods that would create less pollution, less flooding concerns, require little to no new land, and keep intact the integrity of conservation areas and habitats? Perhaps they have done the research yet soundly rejected them on reasonable grounds, such as any and all new methods create more pollution than traditional methods or create a dangerous flooding situation for areas downstream? As I recall, a number of people who testified at those previous hearings all those years ago offered quite a number of alternatives that were eco-friendly and made effective use of the current land space. Has Hawaiian Memorial Park actively researched and since offered to customers any eco-friendly, space-effective alternatives to traditional burials that would effectively eliminate or, at the very least, minimize the amount of new land needed and make more effective use of what they have available? As an entity who claims to "be a good neighbor", it

seems to me that having been denied the option of expanding the cemetery, it would behoove them to look at alternatives. Otherwise, it certainly looks on the face of it, that they were then simply biding their time in the hopes of trying their luck with the State of Hawai`i. That is not the behavior of an entity who claims to be a "good neighbor" to their residential neighbors who have serious concerns about this expansion plan. Finding alternative methods that make better use of the current space seems the best course of action for all parties. It is more cost-effective for the cemetery and minimizes, or, at best, eliminates the concerns over development, flooding, pollution and the high potential of irreparable and unnecessary damage to ancient Hawaiian cultural sites and conservation areas and habitats. It would be a win for all.

Mahalo.



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