



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

October 22, 2018

Land Use Commission

RE: Draft EIS for Hawaiian Memorial Park

Aloha Members,

I am writing in support of the draft EIS for the expansion of Hawaiian Memorial Park. I appreciate that the DEIS has addressed the questions and concerns raised by our ohana as well as the community. We need a place to say aloha to our loved ones and this project is sorely needed on an island in which there are very few places to do this. It not only serves our purpose, but it provides important opportunities to perpetuate our native Hawaiian culture.

I have a personal connection to the cemetery since it is the resting place of four generations of the Mahukona and Chan Ohana including my great grandfather, Officer David Mahukona, a solo bike officer for the Honolulu Police Department, died in 1923 in the line of duty. My grandfather, Libert Koko Chan from Hana, and grandmother, Hazel Mahukona Chan from Papakolea, are also buried here along with numerous other family members including my dad's two brothers and their children.

While most of our ohana now lives on the west side of Oahu because it offered the most affordable choices in housing, we have continued to bury family at Hawaiian Memorial Park – because everyone wants to be together. Four times a year, I take my father to the park to place flowers on the graves. The rest of the family takes turns to make sure that those that have passed are not forgotten.

Hawaiian Memorial has been working Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) for over five years now to address the feral cat population at the park. Like other preservation areas, they also face challenges of feral chickens and pigs. But unlike other areas managed by government and/or private land owners, Hawaiian Memorial has acted responsibly and with compassion to address the problem. They have been strong supporters of our mobile spay/neuter efforts and embraced Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) efforts to reduce the feral cat population which affects the entire community.

Hawaiian Memorial Park and their staff are wonderful stewards to the families resting here and important supporters of our animal welfare efforts. They exude compassion and caring every day. Please look favorably on this bill and support their expansion. If you have any questions, please contact me at alicia@poidogsandpopoki.org.