

Derrickson, Scott A

From: Grace Manio <graceunlimited22006@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 23, 2018 2:42 PM
To: DBEDT LUC; rsato@hhf.com
Subject: Letter for Expansion
Attachments: HMPC letter 10 23 2019.docx

Aloha! Attached is a letter in support of the expansion of cemetery grounds for the community of Kaneohe. Kindly review. Thank you do much for your time and consideration.

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October 22, 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am Grace Manio, a former Family Service Counselor with Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery. In 2009, I had a privilege to speak on behalf of HMPC in their goal of seeking approval for expansion during the public hearing. My support for them remains the same, if not even stronger, after more than 3 years of being part of their organization. As a former Family Service Counselor, I saw firsthand the need of families to be interred together or at least be in the same cemetery as their deceased loved ones. There is still a significant preference for traditional burials due to religious and cultural practices. The arguments against the expansion were about the preservation of cultural areas, the environmental impact, impact of building residential real estate, and negative traffic conditions that might result from the expansion. These are valid reasons and were completely taken into consideration. As I reviewed the comparison table from 2008 to 2018, I can clearly see that this expansion is even more beneficial for the community in Kaneohe. The requested expansion area is significantly reduced from 56.6 acres to 36.8 acres. The expansion stops at the beginning of the cultural preserve. There will 14.5 acres of cultural preserve that will be managed and under the care of **Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club**. This group will ensure that implementation of what was promised is honored and done. The 2018 proposal also includes working with the Hawaiian Island Land Trust to establish conservation easement on 156.5 acres. The stewardship of the land now has a checks and balances system that will safeguard both the needs of families for internment and preserving the cultural heritage of the land.

HMP Plan was added to the KPSCP with a boundary amendment. 8-0 and 1 recused Vote in support at City Council with approval of the updated KPSCP

I truly believe that the stormwater designs which address impacts to Kawa Stream for 100years and 1 hour is a win for the residents that have been victims of the damages of torrential rains and flooding in the past. These improvements are financed by HMPC and are not paid for by taxpayers. These cost saving measures benefit the community and the generations to come.

The exclusions of both the residential area of 6.4 acres and the Lipalu Street Access on the 2018 proposal also removes the negative impact of residential development and traffic congestion in the areas close to the expansion. These three most important revisions are the reasons why I support the expansion. HMPC listened and responded positively to work with the community in creating win-win solutions.

The relationship of the earth with humans can never be taken for granted. We are interdependent and symbiotic. Hawaiian Memorial Park Cemetery is an organization that listens and is willing to work with the community it serves. The families of Kaneohe that need to be interred together are asking you for help. The future of their choices and preferences depends on the outcome of these proceedings. Thank you so much for the opportunity to share my views and support for the expansion. Please feel free to contact me at graceunlimited22006@gmail.com.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Grace Perez-Manio