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Sent:

Tuesday, October 23, 2018 12:16 PM

To:

DBEDT LUC; rsato@hhf.com; jay.morford@dignitymemorial.com

Subject:

A14 804 HMP Testimony

**Attachments:** 

A14 804 HMP.PDF

Please see my testimony to the State LUC for Docket A14-804 - Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan, LTD

Sent from my iPhone

## Testimony Submitted to the State Land Use Commission Regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Hawaii Memorial Park

As the former Chair of the Honolulu Planning Commission, I have had the opportunity to thoroughly review the details of this project along with many hours of public testimony. In addition, I have reviewed the submitted DEIS, and find that it adequately documents and addresses all major issues associated with this project and supported by several technical studies conducted by experts in their field who have analyzed appropriate subject matter and provided their positive findings. Also, several mitigative measures were identified to address project impacts.

This is an important project that is needed by the community. Hawaii Memorial Park (HMP) is a well-managed and well- landscaped cemetery that is in a desirable location for the community as provides a final resting place for loved ones. HMP has documented the need for additional burial plots and site expansion that would serve the long-term needs of the region. Families have also expressed the desire to have burial choices for their family members within the same cemetery and those with loved ones buried at the Hawai'i State Veteran's Cemetery would have a desire to have other family members buried nearby at HMP.

HMP has worked with various native Hawaiian cultural practice and stewardship groups in the community. This project provides a unique opportunity to create a cultural preserve for native Hawaiians that support their cultural practices. Opportunities such as to allow burials within the cultural preserve utilizing native Hawaiian protocols and creating space set aside for a cultural preserve to protect existing archaeological sites and ensure their restoration, including the important Kawa`ewa`e Heiau which is located on this site.

HMP has also addressed various environmental concerns such as minimizing the harm to the endangered damselfly and coordinating with the Federal Wildlife Service for protection of this species. They are also willing to create opportunities for further research and education to learn more about this species. The project will also improve drainage and water quality in the area by reducing the volume and rate of storm water runoff and potential flooding impacts on surrounding residences and improve water quality within both Kawa Stream and Kāne'ohe Bay.

Because of these reasons, this project was approved to be included in the updated Ko'olaupoko Sustainable Communities Plan. I urge the State LUC to approve the DEIS and this project. I thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Aloha,

Dean I Hazama