

Testimony of
Pacific Resource Partnership

State of Hawaii Land Use Commission
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Docket A17-804
Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan
June 9, 2020



Dear Land Use Commissioners:

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) appreciates the Land Use Commission (LUC) resuming the evidentiary hearings for the Hawaiian Memorial Park's (HMP) proposed expansion.

HMP is a full-service cemetery providing communities across Hawaii with burial plots and a variety of interment options. It has operated as a community partner in Kaneohe since 1958. Today, while HMP continues to serve Hawaii, the available inventory of burial, interment and memorialization space is nearly exhausted. Given that HMP is one of a few active cemeteries on Oahu, the approval of HMP's expansion plans will meet the needs of Hawaii families and our growing senior population.

HMP has made good faith efforts to address cultural and environmental concerns and expressions of public sentiment regarding this project. For example, HMP will establish a 14.5-acre cultural preserve for the protection of the Kawaewae Heiau and a conservation easement precluding future development. It will also implement a voluntary management plan to protect the habitat for endangered damsel flies. Indicative of HMP's commitment to community concerns, a recent HMP poll found that 64% of Oahu resident's support HMP's expansion plans with only 7% in opposition.

On an economic note, Hawaii is in the midst of an economic recession from COVID-19. With over 220,000 unemployed Hawaii residents, now is the time to expedite dockets that will provide local jobs and solid investments in our people, our communities and our state.

Given the above, PRP respectfully requests this Commission approve the expansion of the HMP project in the most expeditious manner possible. We thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

