

Testimony of Dr. Kioni Dudley Supporting the Neighborhood Board Request for a Hawaiian Carving on Quarry Wall Land Use Commission 8/21/2024

Agenda Item: SP73-147 Grace Pacific (Makakilo Quarry)

Aloha, Chair Giovanni and Commission Members.

I am Dr. Kioni Dudley. I am the 2nd Vice Chair of the Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board. I am also the person who first suggested that Grace Pacific and future owners be required--as a condition of the LUC approval of an extension of the life of the quarry--to create a Hawaiian Carving on the Makakilo Quarry back wall before the closing of the quarry.

This meeting today is so terribly important because it is truly the one chance in a lifetime to bring a marvelous thing of great beauty to Hawai'i. If you don't vote in support today, there will never be another chance to require such a gift for our people and for future generations.

For decades, the operators of the quarry have carved away at the rock hill, Pu'u O Makakilo, until today there is an ugly, straight up and down, sheer back wall of rock, hundreds of feet high and twice as wide, at the back of the quarry. This gross-looking rock wall is seen by thousands of people on the West side every day. There's no way to avoid it. It's a huge ugly scar on the flowing beauty of nature in the surrounding mountains.

Our people want to see this change. Honoring the great numbers of native Hawaiian people in the Kapolei area, we want to see that back wall transformed into some kind of carving, large enough to be seen from Ka Makana Ali'I, that will beautifully depict a person or persons or event that is special in native Hawaiian culture and tradition--a breath-taking carving that our people today can enjoy, that tourists will come to see, and something that for thousands of years will tell ever new waves of very different settlers in the islands about the original people who discovered and settled Hawai'i.

Thus, I am asking the LUC, as a formal condition of approval of the quarry life extension requests,

1) to require Grace Pacific Company and its new owner, Nan Inc., and all future owners of the Quarry to work with the Neighborhood Board and the chairpersons of the various Hawaiian Homesteads in Kapolei to decide what person or persons or event will be depicted in the carving, and its size, and over-all look in consultation;

2) to require the owners to undertake any needed studies to determine how best to accommodate the beautification project by January 2026 and to finish any studies by

January 2027;

3) to require the owners to begin the carving by July 1, 2027;

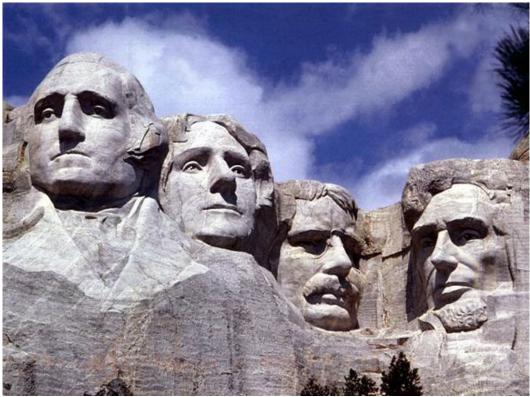
4) to require the owners to give annual updates on the progress of the project to the full Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board and Kapolei Homestead Association chairpersons, each year at the January Neighborhood Board meeting; and

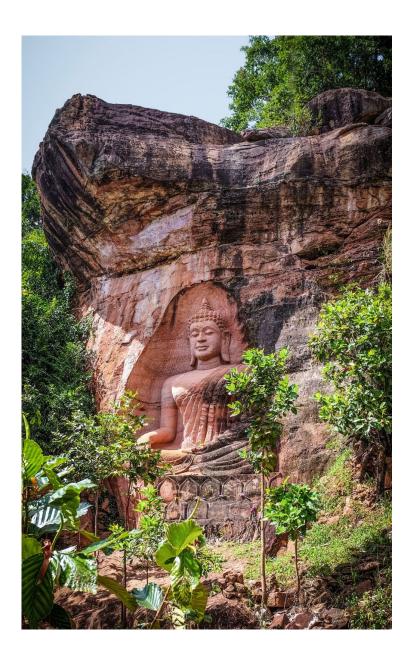
5) to require the owners to finish the carving project by 2047 or by the closing of the quarry, whichever comes earlier.

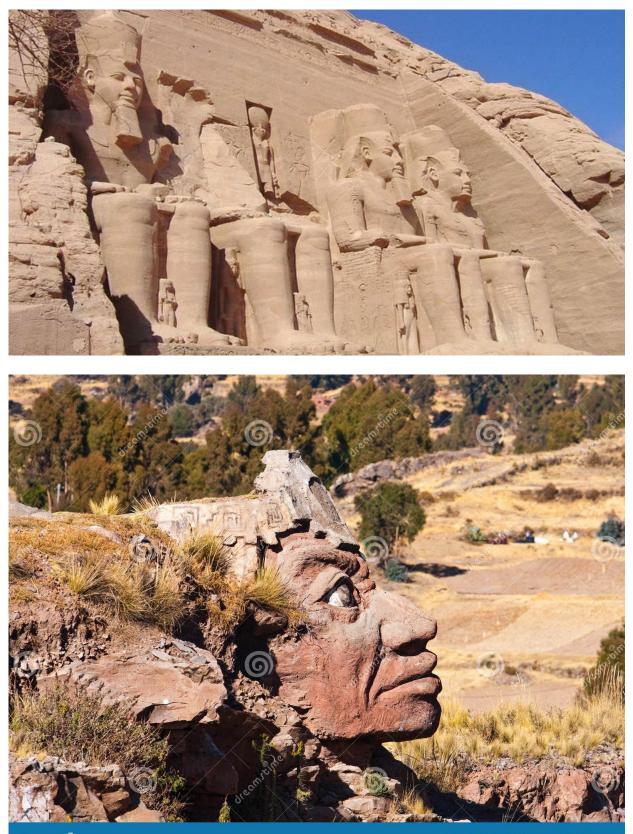
Again, the Land Use Commission is being asked to put all of the above into a formal requirement as a condition of approval of the request to extend the life of the quarry.

There are other now-closed quarries in the islands. Most have gross-looking back walls that destroy the beauty of the surrounding natural scenery. Perhaps Makakilo Quarry could begin a tradition of turning these ugly back walls into native Hawaiian scenes that will become tourist attractions while teaching the early history of the islands to peoples over future centuries.

Below are pictures of carvings in various places.







dreamstime.com

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