

Council of the City and County of Honolulu

Certificate

HONORING PAULETTE KA'ANOHIOKALANI KALEIKINI

On August 24, 2012, the Hawaii Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of Plaintiff Paulette Kaleikini on certain counts of her lawsuit against various city and state officials and agencies, ruling that Defendant State Historic Preservation Division's administrative rules did not allow the agency to approve the City's rail project before an archaeological inventory survey had been completed for the entire 20-mile route. The rail project had been authorized to proceed with separate archaeological inventory surveys for each of four construction phases.

Paulette Kaleikini is a native Hawaiian who engages in traditional and customary practices, including the protection of native Hawaiian burial remains. At a recent public demonstration about rail construction outside of Honolulu City Hall, among the signs held up was: "It didn't take World War III to stop rail. Just a Hawaiian lady from Nanakuli!"

For Native Hawaiians, the significance of iwi kūpuna is deeply rooted in their sense of identity. As descendants they are nourished physically by the fruits of the land and spiritually by the mana of their buried kūpuna. Their connection to iwi kūpuna is evident in the Hawaiian language — 'ōiwi means "native" and kulāiwi means "ancestral homeland." Those who came before us are literally the foundation on which we stand.

For native Hawaiians, exposing, touching, or uprooting burials is more than unpatriotic and criminal; it is an act of violence and degradation to the kūpuna, living family members and the larger community associated with that burial. At a spiritual level, it is the kind of desecration directed at an enemy to destroy or subsume that person's mana. We must afford our kūpuna their due respect. This is about doing what is pono. We owe our ancestors at least that much.

Laws relating to the protection of iwi kupuna reflect our society's fundamental belief that our deceased loved ones should rest in peace – whether they are veterans in Puowaina (Punchbowl Crater), or families in any local community cemetery.

Nā 'ōiwi Hawaii have a responsibility to mālama iwi, to protect their ancestral foundation and preserve the balance of the generations-old relationship among ancestors, the living community, and the 'āina itself. Although Hawaiian iwi kūpuna may not be eternally enshrined beneath polished marble and manicured grass or marked with concrete headstones, they are heroes, the foundation of the Hawaiian identity. They deserve to rest in peace and dignity.

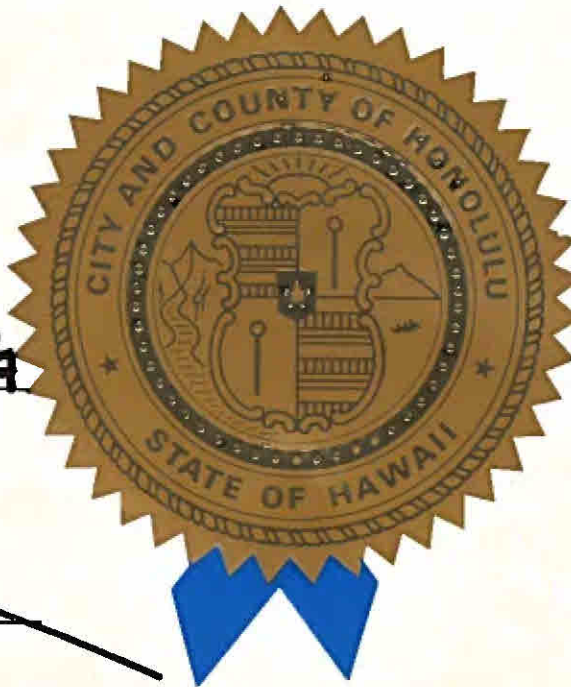
The Honolulu City Council, with deep respect for what is pono, and with the most sincere Aloha, honors Paulette Ka'anohiokalani Kaleikini, whose continuous arduous efforts and long struggles to see fairness and justice in the treatment of the Hawaiian iwi kūpuna embodies our sometimes forgotten, it seems, State motto: "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono" - The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness. Paulette Ka'anohiokalani Kaleikini is that Hawaiian lady from Nanakuli who stands tall for all of us and reminds us not to ever forget our foundation of life and the respect we owe to our iwi kūpuna.

DATED: October 3, 2012

TOM BERG

TOM BERG, Introducer

ERNEST Y. MARTIN, Chair



Ami N. Kobayashi

Romy M. Sabala

Chad Starob

Neil Sani