

Greetings to all committee and subcommittee representative, in Assessing the federal governments response to the 2023 Maui wildfire.

ALOHA!

My name is Ke'eaumoku Kapu of Lahaina Koe Hawaii pae'aina and my family are recognized Lineal Descendant to 2 valleys Kahoma and Kaua'ula and we live on lands awarded to our families thru the existing constitutional kingdom the seat of government once situated here in Lahaina in 1848 till today.

I am the youngest of seven children of my Father Paul Kekai Kapu who served in the United States Marine Corp from 1950 to 1960, and my mother Pualoke Ha'o.

Our organization Na'Aikane o Maui Inc. was formed and founded back in 2011 as a 501c3 non-profit Native Hawaiian organization to help our general community as a resource hub to our in-depth history of Lahaina and to assist in traditional protocols within the sensitivity of our customs, protocols and beliefs.

I have sat on many boards and commissions such as:

- The Maui County cultural resources commission in 2001 to 2004 and reappointed to this commission as of 2023-24.
- The Maui Lana'I Island Burial Council through the State Historic Preservations Division from 2004 and chairman from 2008 to 2012.
- Served on the Native Hawaiian Historic Preservations council an advisory to the board of trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from 2004 to 2014.
- The West Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council from 2007 to 2014.

I stand before you all as a testament to a place that almost got erased through total commercial and industrialization. May Kamehameha III school the Royal compound be a reminder of how our paradise disappeared now that we are dealing directly with scattered remains throughout the entire campus grounds

of the Royal compound known to many as the Capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii where a lot of our monarchial foundations once stood.

Lahaina was known to the venis of the pacific hence the name known by our elders “Malu’ulu o Lele”. The breadfruit grottos of Lele.

The federal response has been great throughout the recovery process and beyond, some hiccup’s when it comes to the protection of Historic properties especially when dealing with burials and understanding more of the roles of Hawaii burial laws through its Hawaii revised statutes and administrative rules could need a lot more clearing up and understanding on both the Federal and State levels of governance when it comes to the rights of the general publics need to know should be a directive from the State Historic Preservation Division Via The Maui Lana’I Island Burial Council,

We Na’Aikane o Maui extend our gratitude to the Federal government for all their assistance in an expeditious way by prioritizing the needs of our community’s health, safety and livelihood for the benefit of our future generations tomorrow.

Na keakua e ho’opomaika’i a’e malama is kakou “May the lord continuously blessed each and every one of us always”

Ke’eaumoku Kapu (Pelekikena)

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