

fukunaga4 - Michelle

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 3:26 PM
To: EDTTestimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SCR3 on 4/3/2009 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDT/JGO 4/3/2009 1:15:00 PM SCR3

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Penny Levin
Organization: Individual
Address: Wailuku, Hawaii
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Submitted on: 3/31/2009

Comments:
Aloha Honorable Committee Members;
I oppose SCR3 SD1.

While I am sure it is without ill-intention that there are state, federal and nonprofit groups who wish to create a Heritage Corridor for the Nuuanu-Capitol district, it is inappropriate for the resources present within the district. The suggestion has been made that such a designation would improve the collective tourist dollars generated by the district. These sites, no the least of which is Mauna Ala and Iolani Palace belong to Hawaiians. No one else should decide whether these sites should fall under national rules. I am sure that the residents of this ahupuaa would feel the same way. NAGPRA laws clearly indicate that the fate of ancestral bones and burials must be given to those of Hawaiian ancestry who are directly linked to them - that would include Mauna Ala. State Historic Preservation laws already protect the individual landmarks within this ahupua'a. Additional federal authority is unnecessary. If this bid is purely to be eligible for federal funding, it is a short-sighted decision. Federal funding will become non-existent within a few years and then we will be stuck with the designation but no money to implement. The prominent TCPs (traditional cultural places) in this district are some of the most politically important historic era sites of the Hawaiian monarchy and its alii. To fail to even discuss this initiative with the Hawaiian community and the residents of the area from the very first day is a failure of honest process. One has to ask, is this the feather in the cap of wresting ceded lands from Hawaiians that the legislature would support a federal designation, and hence a removal of local determination, over these sacred grounds? I can only shake my head in disbelief that the agencies and organizations involved think that such a working group would make such a move acceptable. I urge you to oppose this resolution and oppose the designation of this district as a federal Heritage Area. Mahalo.