



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 25-63, FD1

RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES TO RENAME SAND ISLAND TO MAULIOLA.

WHEREAS, Sand Island, located within Honolulu Harbor, was formerly known as Mauiola, which was derived from maui ola or "breath of life" or "power of healing" in 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, from the mid-1800s through the mid-1900s, this small tidal island grew in size with the dredging and infilling of Honolulu Harbor, altering an area that had once been a large complex of fishponds and reefs; and

WHEREAS, during the late 1800s and early 1900s, the rapid urbanization of Honolulu and an increasingly busy harbor brought an influx of disease, which rapidly spread; and

WHEREAS, Mauiola was utilized to quarantine ships, and the government built a crematorium on the island, which in part led to Mauiola becoming known as Quarantine Island; and

WHEREAS, Quarantine Island continued to grow in size with more dredging and infilling of Honolulu Harbor in the 1940s, and the island was utilized by the military as a coastal defense station and an internment camp; and

WHEREAS, Quarantine Island later became known by its present name, Sand Island, which is listed as the island's official name on the Geographic Names Information System ("GNIS"), a federal repository for identifying official place names; and

WHEREAS, state governments are given the authority to provide "administrative names" to places, which are then listed in the GNIS; and

WHEREAS, the Hawai'i State Board on Geographic Names ("HBGN"), through the enactment of Act 50, Session Laws of Hawaii 1974 and codified as Chapter 4E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, was established to designate the official place names and spellings of geographic features in the State of Hawai'i ("State") and to ensure uniformity in the use and spelling of geographic features; and

WHEREAS, the HBGN uses cultural and historical significance as a criterion for considering a name change, with preference given to names in 'ōlelo Hawai'i; and



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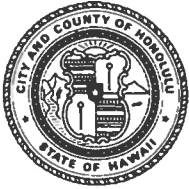
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, today Sand Island is home to a State recreation area, a United States Coast Guard base, a wastewater treatment facility, a business park, and a marine education training center; and

WHEREAS, the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association has advocated for the renaming of Sand Island to Mauiola, as the meaning of this new name would embody the values of healing, renewal, and interconnectedness, and the renaming would also promote public awareness and understanding of the island's historical importance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council believes that Mauiola is a historically accurate and appropriate name that would reflect the area's cultural and historical significance and honor the cultural heritage of Native Hawaiians by recognizing the significance of traditional place names; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it urges the Hawai'i State Board on Geographic Names to rename Sand Island to Mauiola; and



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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Hawai'i State Board on Geographic Names and the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association.

INTRODUCED BY:

Radiant Cordero

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

February 20, 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:

Hawai'i State Board on Geographic Names ("HBGN"); Hawaii; Geographic Names Information System ("GNIS"); Mauiola; Quarantine Island; Sand Island; Name Change

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