

Testimony

Agenda Item #5

Mauliola

As of 02/12/2026

6:00pm HST

From: [Rachel Anderson](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rachel Anderson - Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:57:49 PM
Attachments: [MK Testimony 02.13.26.docx.pdf](#)

Here is my attached testimony to HGBN!

Thank you,
Rachel Anderson

Information about submitting and providing testimony: Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O‘ahu to Mauiola

Written testimony may be submitted on any agenda item:

by email: arthur.j.buto@hawaii.gov or

- **Subject line requirement:** Include the word “**testimony**” + “**agenda item #5: Renaming Sand Island to Traditional Name**”.

Testimony template

Subject: Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O‘ahu to Mauiola

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is **Rachel Anderson**, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of renaming **Sand Island** (within **Honolulu Harbor**) to **Mauiola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am a member of **OPIHI (Our Project in Hawai‘i’s Intertidal)** with **the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa** and I have a direct relationship to this place through **education, canoe paddling, community service, and stewardship**. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name **Mauiola** supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to **approve the name change** from **Sand Island** to **Mauiola**, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy.

Mauliola carries deep cultural meaning—**mauliola** is “breath of life” and “power of healing” “life force” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

Key points:

- The name Mauliola affirms the island’s layered history and its longstanding association with health, quarantine, and ola.
- The name better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and supports the Board’s cultural and historical criteria for name changes.
- Restoring Mauliola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with community, I believe the name change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island’s cultural and historical significance;
- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning);
- Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of **Honolulu Harbor**.

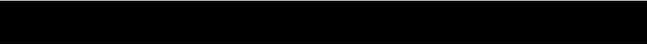
I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board’s kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai’i’s place names. I respectfully support restoring **Mauliola** as the official name.

Me ke aloha,

Rachel Anderson
OPIHI Member

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



From: [Ellie Cory](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O’ahu to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:54:27 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is Ellie Cory, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of renaming Sand Island (within Honolulu Harbor) to Mauiola, as discussed under Agenda Item 5. I am a student at UH Mānoa, and I have a direct relationship to this place through education and stewardship. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name Mauiola supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the name change from Sand Island to Mauiola, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing, let’s continue his legacy. Mauiola carries deep cultural meaning—mauiola is “breath of life” and “power of healing” “life force” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time. The name Mauiola affirms the island’s layered history and its longstanding association with health, quarantine, and ola. Restoring Mauiola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with the community, I believe that the name change will encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of Honolulu Harbor. I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board’s kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai‘i’s place names. I respectfully support restoring Mauiola as the official name.

Me ke aloha,
Ellie Cory
[REDACTED]
Kaimuki, O’ahu

--
Ellie Cory
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [Ian Custino](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#); [Evans, Mary Alice](#); [Hailama Farden](#); katrinaa@hawaii.edu; kapaoliveira@gmail.com; [Makaila, Lilliane K](#); mmarzan@gmail.com; marques@bishopmuseum.org; [McEldowney, Holly](#); [Morales, Ryan D](#)
Cc: [Shane](#); [Kēhaulani Kupihea](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Renaming of "Sand Island"
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 4:18:35 PM
Attachments: [MGFHawaii_mauliola_support.pdf](#)

Aloha HAWAI'I BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES (HBGN):

I know this email is out of order, as testimony was due on Tuesday the 10th. Moanalua Gardens Foundation only became aware of this meeting today. We supported the name change of this sacred place in a letter to the Honolulu City Council (attached) last year in support of our Watershed Collaborative partner Mauiola Ke'ehi. Mauiola Ke'ehi has historical knowledge as lineal descendents and caregivers from that 'āina.

Restoring historical names rooted in Hawaiian culture and history are so very important. MGF Hawai'i humbly asks that you give Mauiola Ke'ehi a chance to provide information and documentation supporting this effort in "Sand Island." Kēhaulani Kupihea from Mauiola Ke'ehi will be attending tomorrow's meeting to present more information on the issue.

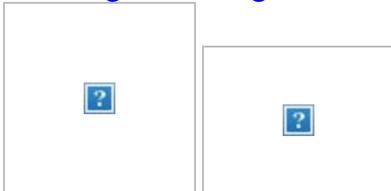
The 49th Annual Prince Lot Hula Festival
May 9-10, 2026 at Bishop Museum

Me ka mahalo,

Ian Keali'i Custino, ABD
Executive Director
MGF-Hawai'i

Schedule a Meeting with Me, click:
<https://calendly.com/ian-mgfhawaii>


www.mgfhawaii.org





Hon. Radiant Cordero
Honolulu Hale
530 S. King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

February 12, 2025

RE: Support for the renaming of Sand Island to Mauiola

Aloha Councilmember Cordero,

On behalf of Moanalua Gardens Foundation, Inc. dba MGF Hawai'i we are reaching out to request your support for an important initiative to rename Sand Island to Mauiola. This effort seeks to restore a traditional Hawaiian place name, honor the cultural significance of the area, and inspire renewed stewardship for this historically and environmentally significant location. The name "Mauiola," meaning "breath of life" in Hawaiian, holds profound cultural value. It embodies the interconnectedness of land, sea, and people, as well as the principles of health and renewal. Renaming Sand Island to Mauiola aligns with ongoing efforts to celebrate and preserve Native Hawaiian heritage.

Sand Island's history is multifaceted. Native Hawaiians historically used the area for fishing, salt production, and cultural practices. It later became the site of a World War II detention camp, a chapter in Hawai'i's history that further underscores the need to reclaim and honor this place with a name that reflects healing and cultural significance.

We believe that renaming Sand Island to Mauiola will:

1. Acknowledge and honor the cultural heritage of Native Hawaiians.
2. Encourage greater community awareness of the island's historical importance.
3. Foster pride and stewardship among residents and visitors alike.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED] with any questions or to discuss how we can collaborate.

Me ke aloha pumehana,


Ian Keali'i Custino, ABD
Executive Director, MGF Hawai'i

From: [Margaret Dela Cruz](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O’ahu to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 4:16:00 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai’i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is **Margaret Dela Cruz**, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of renaming **Sand Island** (within **Honolulu Harbor**) to **Mauiola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am **an Admissions Officer** with **Kamehameha Schools**, and I have a direct relationship to this place through **cultural practice, education, canoe paddling, community service, and stewardship**. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name **Mauiola** supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to **approve the name change** from **Sand Island** to **Mauiola**, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy.

Mauiola carries deep cultural meaning—**mauiola** is “breath of life” and “power of healing” “life force” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

Key points:

- The name Mauiola affirms the island’s layered history and its longstanding association with health, quarantine, and ola.
- The name better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and supports the Board’s cultural and historical criteria for name changes.
- Restoring Mauiola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place —especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with community, I believe the name change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island’s cultural and historical significance;
- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning);

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board’s kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai’i’s place names. I respectfully support restoring **Mauiola** as the official name.

Me ke aloha,

Margaret Dela Cruz

Admissions Officer

Kamehameha Schools



Kalihi

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From: [Umi Jensen](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in support of renaming Sand Island to its Hawaiian name (HBGN meeting, Agenda Item 5)
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 4:33:50 PM

Aloha to the Chair and Members of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is Umi Jensen, and I have served as a program evaluator and data support person for Mauiola Ke'ehi, an amazing nonprofit serving our community in the place of interest-- Mauiola, or known today as Sand Island (Item 5 in your agenda). I am in strong support of the renaming of Sand Island to Mauiola, which is a traditional Native Hawaiian name for this place.

Through my participation in Mauiola Ke'ehi programming and seeing the impact of participants spending time there through their surveys and sharing, I know how important it is for people to be exposed to the traditional mo'olelo or stories of Mauiola and the tidal islands. It is so powerful for people to learn Hawai'i history of a specific place because it not only empowers them to use and apply this knowledge in life now but it also inspires them to be curious about the history and names of their own communities.

Your Board approval of the Sand Island name change to Mauiola would formalize the traditional knowledge and name of this space so that the general public of Hawai'i will be able to learn and use its traditional name. This decision would support cultural authenticity and accuracy and spark curiosity and care for other places and their traditional names. This move will strengthen community connection to this place and increase public awareness of Mauiola's cultural and historical significance.

I appreciate your time and consideration in your careful renaming of this significant cultural place.

Mahalo,

Umi Jensen
Principal Consultant, 10 Heavens LLC
Hau'ula, O'ahu


From: [Hemakana Yam-Lum](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 1:11:56 PM

Aloha,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of restoring the traditional place name Mauiola to the area currently known as Sand Island, not only for the park but for the entire complex.

Place names in Hawai‘i are not simple labels. They carry genealogy, memory, and knowledge of the land. A traditional name preserves ‘ike kūpuna and connects present and future generations to the history, practices, and relationships that existed long before the imposition of foreign names. The name Sand Island reflects a period of occupation, while Mauiola reflects identity, healing, and continuity.

Restoring Mauiola is an act of cultural accuracy and educational value. It allows our community, especially our youth, to learn the true stories of place rather than inherit disconnection. Our maps, classrooms, and daily speech shape how we understand Hawai‘i. When the correct names live again, the ‘ike tied to them lives again as well.

Renaming the entire complex ensures clarity and integrity. Partial renaming would separate the land from its own identity.

I ask the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names to honor the depth of history and community mana‘o by restoring the name Mauiola. Doing so supports language revitalization, cultural stewardship, and respectful recognition of the knowledge that continues to guide our peoples today.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Hema Yam-Lum

***Na'u me ke aloha aina,
Hema Yam-Lum (Kumu)
Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Kapolei***



This e-mail is being sent by a student or employee of Kula Kaiapuni ‘O Ānuenuē.

From: [Aaron Magee](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O’ahu to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:49:52 PM
Attachments: [Testimony – Agenda Item 5 Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O’ahu to Mauiola.docx.pdf](#)

Aloha,
Attached is my written testimony.

Thank you,

Aaron Magee
Founder, Executive Director
Global Preservation Initiative Inc.



Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O‘ahu to Mauiola

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is Aaron Magee, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of renaming Sand Island (within Honolulu Harbor) to Mauiola, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am the Executive Director of Global Preservation Initiative, a local nonprofit leading the stewardship of Mauiola for the past three years through an adopt-a-park agreement with the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name Mauiola supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the name change from Sand Island to Mauiola, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy.

Mauiola carries deep cultural meaning—mauiola is “breath of life” and “power of healing” “life force” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

Key points:

- The name Mauiola affirms the island’s layered history and its longstanding association with health, quarantine, and ola.
- The name better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and supports the Board’s cultural and historical criteria for name changes.
- Restoring Mauiola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with community, I believe the name change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island’s cultural and historical significance;
- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning);
- Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of Honolulu Harbor.

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board’s kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai‘i’s place names. I respectfully support restoring Mauiola as the official name.

*Aaron Magee
Founder, Executive Director
Global Preservation Initiative Inc.*



www.GlobalPreservationInitiative.org

From: [Mahealani](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O’ahu to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:45:17 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is Māhealani Taitague-Laforga, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support of renaming Sand Island (within Honolulu Harbor) to Mauiola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am a Kanaka wahine, and I have a direct relationship to this place through cultural practice, education, genealogy, and lived experience. I recently graduated with my master's degree in Public Health, specializing in Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I had the privilege of attending multiple educational events hosted at Mauiola and feel that restoring the Native name of Mauiola is of great importance. Restoring the Native name of Mauiola is an important step in honoring the original stewards of this land and ensuring that their language and history remain visible and respected. This restoration is not about the past alone; it is about the future. It strengthens cultural continuity, supports education rooted in place, and affirms the living presence of our Native community. For those of us who have learned and gathered at Mauiola, the name carries significance and responsibility. Recognizing its Native name formally would align public record with cultural truth.

I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name Mauiola supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the name change from Sand Island to Mauiola, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy.

Mauiola carries deep cultural meaning - mauiola is “breath of life” and “power of healing” “life force” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

Restoring Mauiola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place, especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape. As someone who works directly with community, I believe the name change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island’s cultural and historical significance;
- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning);
- Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of Honolulu Harbor.

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board’s kuleana to ensure

uniformity and integrity in Hawai‘i’s place names. **I respectfully support restoring Mauiola as the official name.**

Me ke aloha,
Māhealani Taitague-Laforga



From: [Wailana Medeiros](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY - agenda item #5: Renaming Sand Island to Traditional Name
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:48:22 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is Wailana Medeiros, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of renaming **Sand Island** to **Mauliola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am a researcher with Huliouapa'a, and I have a direct relationship to this place through partnerships with Mauliola Ke'ehi, an organization that stewards the area. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name **Mauliola** supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to **approve the name change** from **Sand Island** to **Mauliola**, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauliola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy.

Mauliola carries deep cultural meaning—**mauliola** is "breath of life" and "power of healing" "life force" a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

Key points:

- The name Mauliola affirms the island's layered history and its longstanding association with health, quarantine, and ola.
- The name better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and supports the Board's cultural and historical criteria for name changes.
- Restoring Mauliola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with community, I believe the name

change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island's cultural and historical significance;
- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning);
- Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of **Honolulu Harbor**.

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board's kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai'i's place names. I respectfully support restoring **Mauliolo** as the official name.

Me ke aloha,

Wailana Medeiros

Huliauapaa



--

Wailana Medeiros M.A.

PhD Student - Political Science

Graduate Assistant

Center for Oral History - Department of Ethnic Studies

Pronouns She/Her/'O ia

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

From: [Kanoa O Connor](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O’ahu to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:43:02 PM
Attachments: [Testimony in support of Maui Ola.docx](#)

Aloha nui Arthur,

Please find my testimony (attached).

Me ke aloha ‘āina,
Kanoa



Secured by [Paubox](#) - HITRUST certified

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is Kanoa Manu-O'Connor, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of renaming **Sand Island** (within **Honolulu Harbor**) to **Mauliola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am Assistant Director with Ho'oulu 'Āina – Kōkua Kalihi Valley, and I have a direct relationship to this place through being a life-long Kalihi resident, and running ocean and wa'a-based youth programming at Mauliola. We have a deep relationship with the 'ohana and descendants of that place, especially exemplified by Kēhaulani Kupihea. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name **Mauliola** supports cultural accuracy, restores its mana, uplifts community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to **approve the name change** from **Sand Island** to **Mauliola**, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauliola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy.

Mauliola carries deep cultural meaning—**mauliola** is “breath of life” and “power of healing” “life force” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our mana; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

Key points (pick 2–4):

- The name Mauliola affirms the island's layered history and its longstanding association with health, quarantine, and ola.
- The name better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and supports the Board's cultural and historical criteria for name changes.
- Restoring Mauliola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with community, I believe the name change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island's cultural and historical significance;

- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning);
- Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of **Honolulu Harbor**.

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board's kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai'i's place names. I respectfully support restoring **Mauliola** as the official name.

Me ke aloha,

S Kanoa L Manu-O'Connor
Ho'oulu 'Āina – Kōkua Kalihi Valley



Leaha, Kalihi Uka, Kona, O'ahu



Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Hawaii
PO Box 22807
Honolulu, HI 96823-2807



February 12, 2026

Hawaii Board on Geographic Names

Subject: Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O‘ahu to Mauiola - support for the Renaming of Sand Island to Mauiola

Aloha Board Members,

On behalf of Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Hawaii, a member of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association and all of our member clubs, we are reaching out to offer our support for the initiative to restore the name of Sand Island to Mauiola. The canoe club efforts seeking to recognize the traditional Hawaiian place names, honor the cultural significance of the area, and inspire stewardship for this historically and environmentally significant location.

The name “Mauiola,” meaning “breath of life” in Hawaiian, holds profound cultural value. It embodies the interconnectedness of land, sea, and people, as well as the principles of health and renewal. Renaming Sand Island to Mauiola aligns with ongoing efforts to celebrate and preserve Native Hawaiian heritage and highlights the ongoing cultural significance that our canoe clubs are leading.

As canoe clubs seeking to honor the longstanding cultural connection of our place based practices, we believe that recognizing and renaming Sand Island to Mauiola will:

1. Acknowledge and honor the cultural heritage of Native Hawaiians.
2. Encourage greater community awareness of the island’s historical importance.
3. Highlight the cultural heritage and significance of our canoe
4. Foster pride and stewardship among residents and visitors alike.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact us at with any questions or to discuss how we can collaborate.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Siana Hunt
President | Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Hawaii

cc: Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association



From: [Wanda Anae-Onishi](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on renaming Sand Island
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 4:34:58 PM
Attachments: [Mauliola Keehi.docx](#)

Dear Chair Buto,
Please accept my testimony in support of renaming Sand Island to Mauliola.
Sincerely yours,
Wanda Anae-Onishi

February 12, 2026

Re: Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, Oah'u, to Mauiola

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai'i Board of Geographic Names,

My name is Wanda Anae-Onishi. I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of returning Sand Island to its traditional name, Mauiola. I grew up in Kalihi since the late 1960s and attended family reunions on Sand Island in the 1980s. These places have formed me in positive ways. Little did I know that the traditional name was Mauiola. I had the great privilege of visiting Mauiola Ke'ehi last year and reconnected to my childhood. The experience restored my health!

I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name **Mauiola** supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to **approve the name change** from **Sand Island** to **Mauiola**, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing. Let's continue his legacy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,



Wanda Anae-Onishi



From: [Morgan Pirnie](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony- Agenda Item 5: Renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:37:46 PM
Attachments: [MK Testimony 02.13.26 -MPirnie.docx](#)

Aloha, I have attached a written testimony regarding the renaming of "Sand Island" to "Mauiola". Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Morgan Pirnie



Testimony 2/12/2026

Subject: Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O‘ahu to Mauiola

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is **Morgan Lee Pirnie** and I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of renaming **Sand Island** (within **Honolulu Harbor**) to **Mauiola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am a **student and volunteer** with **UH Manoa** and I have a direct relationship to this place through **community service and paddling**. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name **Mauiola** supports cultural accuracy, promotes healing within the MANA community, and enhances public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to **approve the name change** from **Sand Island** to **Mauiola**, as King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy for the people of Hawai‘i.

Mauiola carries deep cultural meaning—**mauiola** is “breath of life” and “power of healing,” “life force,” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time. The name Mauiola affirms the island’s layered history and its longstanding association with health, quarantine, and ola. Additionally, restoring Mauiola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth, students and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with community, I believe the name change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island’s cultural and historical significance.

- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning).
- Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of **Honolulu Harbor**.

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while maintaining a clear path and timeline toward a final decision, as emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board's kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai'i's place names. I respectfully support restoring **Mauliola** as the official name.

Me ke aloha,

Morgan Pirnie

Student & Volunteer

UH Manoa



From: [Ikaika Rogerson](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony in Support of Agenda Item 5 – Renaming Sand Island to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 1:55:46 PM
Attachments: [MauiolaTestimony.pdf](#)

Aloha Members of the Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names,

On behalf of the O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association (OHCRA), please find attached our written testimony in support of Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola.

OHCRA respectfully submits this letter to express our strong support for restoring the traditional name *Mauiola*, recognizing the cultural, historical, and living significance of this place to Native Hawaiian communities and canoe clubs across O'ahu.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued work in honoring and perpetuating Hawai'i's place names. Should you have any questions or wish to follow up, please feel free to contact us.

Me ke aloha pumehana,
Siana Hunt
President | O'ahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association


From: [Dylan Salcedo](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony Agenda Item #5 Renaming Sand Island To Traditional Name
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 3:38:48 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[MK Testimony 02.13.26 Dylan Salcedo.pdf](#)

Aloha e Arthur,

Please see attached.

Mahalo,



Dylan Salcedo

Admissions Officer III
Kamehameha Schools | Admissions

Wahi hana: Kawajaha'o Plaza | 567 South King St., Ste. 618, Honolulu HI 96813

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Subject: Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O‘ahu to Mauiola

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is **Dylan Salcedo** and I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of renaming **Sand Island** (within **Honolulu Harbor**) to **Mauiola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am **an Admissions Officer** with **Kamehameha Schools** and I have a direct relationship to this place through **education**. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name **Mauiola** supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to **approve the name change** from **Sand Island** to **Mauiola**, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy.

Mauiola carries deep cultural meaning—**mauiola** is “breath of life” and “power of healing” “life force” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

Key points (pick 2–4):

- The name Mauiola affirms the island’s layered history and its longstanding association with health, quarantine, and ola.
- The name better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and supports the Board’s cultural and historical criteria for name changes.
- Restoring Mauiola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with community, I believe the name change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island's cultural and historical significance;
- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning);
- Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of **Honolulu Harbor**.

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board's kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai'i's place names. I respectfully support restoring **Mauliolo** as the official name.

Me ke aloha,

Dylan Salcedo

Admissions Officer

Kamehameha Schools



From: [Cecile Vimond](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item #5: Renaming Sand Island to Traditional Name
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 1:56:47 PM

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is Cécile Vimond, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of renaming Sand Island (within Honolulu Harbor) to Mauiola, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am a Graduate Student with the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and I have a direct relationship to this place through education, community service and lived experience. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name Mauiola supports cultural accuracy, restores its MANA community healing, and public understanding of the place.

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the name change from Sand Island to Mauiola, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing, let's continue his legacy.

Mauiola carries deep cultural meaning—mauiola is “breath of life” and “power of healing” “life force” a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA, how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

The name Mauiola better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and supports the Board’s cultural and historical criteria for name changes. Restoring Mauiola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape. As someone who works directly with the community, I believe the name change will: 1) Increase public awareness of the island’s cultural and historical significance; 2) Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning); 3) Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of Honolulu Harbor.

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board’s kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai‘i’s place names. I respectfully support restoring Mauiola as the official name.

Me ke aloha,
Cécile Vimond
Zoology Ph.D. Student
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

From: [Kaylah Kelly-Weiss](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony | Agenda Item #5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 2:50:50 PM
Attachments: [Kaylah KW - MK Testimony 02.13.26.docx.pdf](#)

Aloha,

I am respectfully submitting my written testimony for Agenda Item #5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola, which will be considered by The Hawai'i Board on Geographic Names (HBGN) at its meeting on February 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM. A PDF copy of my testimony is attached to this email.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Me ke aloha,

--

Kaylah Leina'ala Kelly-Weiss

Undergraduate Student, Political Science and Hawaiian Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

[LinkedIn](#)

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Agenda Item #5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O‘ahu to Mauiola

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i Board on Geographic Names,

My name is Kaylah Leina‘ala Kelly-Weiss, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of renaming Sand Island (within Honolulu Harbor) to Mauiola, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am a third-year undergraduate student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and I have a direct connection to this place through extensive environmental stewardship as an intern with UH Mānoa’s Center for Indigenous Innovation and Health Equity (CIIHE) and Leeward Community College’s He Loa Ke Aho program. I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name Mauiola supports cultural accuracy, promotes community healing, and public understanding of the place and its mana (spiritual power).

I respectfully urge the Board to approve the name change from Sand Island to Mauiola, as our King Kamehameha V had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola for a future place of healing. Mauiola carries deep cultural meaning—mauiola, meaning the “breath of life”, “power of healing”, and “life force”, is a name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our mana; how we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time.

I believe the traditional name best reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and aligns with the Board’s cultural and historical criteria for name changes. Restoring Mauiola strengthens our community’s connection, deepens educational opportunities, and reinforces accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape. During my internship, I came to truly understand the significance of Mauiola and its genealogical ties to our Native people, who once thrived among the reefs that sustained them. Failing to acknowledge the need to restore this traditional name risks becoming a silent act of cultural erasure—diminishing the history and knowledge that came before us.

As someone who works directly with the community, I believe the name change will:

- Increase public awareness of the island’s cultural and historical significance;
- Support education (schools, university partners, and community learning);
- Encourage respect and stewardship for the land and waters of Honolulu Harbor.

I recognize that a name change can involve coordination across agencies and stakeholders. I respectfully request that the Board continue its outreach process while keeping a clear path and timeline toward a final decision, as emphasized on the agenda.

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board's kuleana to ensure uniformity and integrity in Hawai'i's place names. I greatly support restoring Mauiola as the official name.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kaylah Leina'ala Kelly-Weiss

Political Science & Hawaiian Studies Student | University of Hawai'i - Mānoa

[REDACTED]

Wai'anae, HI