

Testimony

Agenda Item #5

Mauliola

As of 02/13/2026

9:00am HST

From: [Puamana Miyasato](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony – Agenda Item 5: Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O’ahu to Mauiola
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 7:44:32 AM

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

My name is **Puamana Miyasato**, 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 **Manager** with **Kamehameha Schools**, and I have a direct relationship to this place through education, cultural practice 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 (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 **Mauiola** as the official name.

Me ke aloha,
Puamana “Mana” Miyasato
Admissions Campus Manager
PH. [REDACTED]

He mau maka laha ‘ole
In appreciation for the privilege of serving

This message is the property of Kamehameha Schools and any attachments are confidential to

the intended recipient at the e-mail address to which it has been addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not copy, forward, disclose or use any part of this message or its attachments. If you received this transmission in error please notify the sender immediately by e-mail or contact Kamehameha Schools at webmaster@ksbe.edu and then delete this message from your system.

From: [Paula Morelli](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on behalf of Renaming Sand Island to Mauiola
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 7:53:46 AM
Attachments: [2026 Mauiola Name restoration.docx](#)

Aloha: Attached please find my testimony.
Mahalo, p

Paula Toki Araullo Tanemura Morelli, MSW, PhD, LCSW, LLC
Cell: (808) 372-4578, [REDACTED]
Journal of Indigenous Social Development, Co-Editor-in-Chief
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/journals/indigenous-social-development>
Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Research Consultant
University of Hawai`i, Affiliate Graduate Faculty
Molokai Dispatch/Molokai Community News Non-profit Board
Member <https://themolokaidispatch.com/>
2022-2023 Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) area consultant & curriculum coordinator [Meet the Team | OD2A-C3 \(hawaii.edu\)](#)

Look to this day for it is life. The very life of life. The realities & verities of existence, the bliss of growth, the splendor of power. For yesterday is but a dream and tomorrow is only a vision, but today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day. Sanskrit Proverb

PAULA T. MORELLI, MSW, PHD

1511 EHUPUA PLACE, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96821

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

TESTIMONY AGENDA ITEM #5: RENAMING SAND ISLAND, O’AHU TO TRADITIONAL NAME, MAULIOLA

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

My name is Paula T. Morelli, community member and advocate, I have a direct relationship with this place through education and community service. I respectfully offer testimony to restore the name **Mauliola** for cultural accuracy, cultural healing and public education.

Respectfully, I ask the Board to approve the **name change from Sand Island to Mauliola**. **Mauliola** means the *“breath of life”, “power of healing” and “life force”*.

Please approve this name change as it will affirm the island’s history, its association with health and wellbeing, and increase respectful public awareness and education.

Respectfully,

PAULA MORELLI

PAULA T. MORELLI

From: [Samantha Shedd](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item #5: Renaming Sand Island to Traditional Name
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 8:50:39 AM

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

My name is Samantha Shedd, 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.

--
--

Samantha Shedd

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PhD Candidate, Hunter Lab
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Returned Peace Corps Volunteer
Peace Corps Philippines 2018-2020

*"Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."
-Rachel Carson*

From: [Kanoë Vares](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - Renaming Sand Island to Traditional Names, Mauiola
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 8:06:09 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-20lfrsri.png](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawaiʻi Board on Geographic Names,

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

I am community supporter for Mauiola Ke'ehi, and I have a direct relationship to this place through cultural practice, education, 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);
- 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,
Kanoë Vares
Project Manager



I maika'i i ke kalo i ka 'ohā.
The goodness of the taro is judged by the young plant it produces.
'Ōlelo No'eau, 1232

This message is the property of Kamehameha Schools and any attachments are confidential to the intended recipient at the e-mail address to which it has been addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not copy, forward, disclose or use any part of this message or its attachments. If you received this transmission in error please notify the sender immediately by e-mail or contact Kamehameha Schools at webmaster@ksbe.edu and then delete this message from your system.