

Testimony

Agenda Item #5

Mauliola

As of 02/13/2026

11:00am HST

From: [Kauai Hookano](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony - agenda item #5: Renaming Sand Island to Traditional Name
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 9:16:37 AM

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 **Kaulani Ho‘okano-Tulchin** 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 **Board Member** of **Mauiola Ke‘ehi** as well as a **School Counselor** at **Wahiawa Middle**, 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 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,

Kaulani Ho'okano-Tulchin

**Board Member, Mauiola Ke'ehi
School Counselor, Wahiawa Middle**



From: [Mark Kunimune](#)
To: [Buto, Arthur J](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony and agenda item #5: Renaming Sand Island to Traditional Name
Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026 9:35:16 PM
Attachments: [Testimonyfor renaming Sand Island, Oahu to Mauiloa.pdf](#)

Aloha...please find my testimony attached

Mahalo
Mark Kunimune
Ho'ohanu

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

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

I am the founder and board president with Ho'ohanu (We care for the mental health and wellness of first responders), and I have a direct relationship to this place through cultural practice, utilizing the kai (ocean) to manage job related stress. 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.

Me ka pono,
Mark Kunimune
Founder and Board President
Ho'ohanu



From: [Ahukini Kupihea](#)
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 7:55:25 PM
Attachments: [Testimony Agenda Item 5 Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola.pdf](#)

Aoha mai e Arthur,

mahalo nui for taking the time to help our community with Mauiola!

see attachment

Kupihea

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[A.R. Kupihea](#)

[MFA-Sculpture UHM](#)

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 **Ahukini Kupihea**, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of renaming **Sand Island** to **Mauiola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am a humble descendant of the **Kupihea ohana that resided on Kahaka‘aulana island in the Keehi estuary. My kupuna, Kahilulumoe Kupihea Johnson born 1875, and David Malo Kupihea who was actually born on Kahaka‘aulana in 1872. He was an active member of Legislation for the Territory of Hawaii, and the last konohiki of Ke‘ehi.** My kupuna wahine, Mahina o Hokumalamalama Kupihea born 1925, was raised on Kahaka‘aulana by her grandparents, and resided there until WWII. I was lucky to have shared a good part of my life with her, and she has shared a great deal of her history and memories of her childhood with me. From her personal account, my own personal research, and a few 1800’s maps, I am 100% positive that the original tidal island Kahaka‘aulana is not what we know as “sand Island”. The traditional inoa of that island was Moku Akulikuli, later Kamehameha V Lota Kapuāiwa Kalanimakua Ali‘iōlani Kalanikupuapa‘īkalaninui, renamed it **MAUIOLA**.

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

I respectfully urge the Board to **approve the name change** from **Sand Island** to **Mauiola**, as King Kamehameha V Lota Kapuāiwa Kalanimakua Ali‘iōlani Kalanikupuapa‘īkalaninui, had previously changed it from Moku Akulikuli to Mauiola to be a future place of healing, Let us continue and honor his legacy.

Mauliola carries deep cultural meaning. **Mauliola** is “breath of life, power of healing, and life force,” and the traditional name of our health deity. Restoring the ancestral name will help to restore its MANA. We thrive when we understand where we are, and what that place has held over time. Then, it will certainly live up to its name.

Key points:

- The name Mauliola affirms the island’s layered history and its longstanding association with life, wellbeing, and health - as Mauliola.
- The name better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and perfectly fits the Board’s cultural and historical criteria for name change.
- Restoring Mauliola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place—especially for youth and residents who learn their history through **INTERACTION** with the landscape.

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 oiai’o,
Ahukini Kupaheha
Kupaheha ‘Ohana

From: [Kēhaulani Kupaiea](#)
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 8:27:39 PM
Attachments: [testimony Agenda Item 5 Discussion and decision on renaming Sand Island, O'ahu to Mauiola.pdf](#)
[Reg2848W fisheries map with Mauiola.pdf](#)

Aloha Arthur
Please see the attachment. I will also be there tomorrow to
testify in person.
Mahalo nui loa

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[Kēhaulani Kupaiea](#)
Founder & Executive Director
Mauiola Ke'ehi 501(c)3
<https://www.keehi.org>
Ho'ōla Nā Moku 'o Ke'ehi (Mauiola, Kahaka'aulana & Mokuo'eo, Mokauea)





P.O. Box 894006 Mililani, HI 96789

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 Kehaulani Kupuhea, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of renaming *Sand Island* to **Mauiola**, as discussed under Agenda Item 5.

I am a descendant of the David Malo ‘ohana which is a direct line to the Kupuhea ‘ohana who lived on the tidal inlet of Kahaka‘aulana. My son and husband’s tutu Kahilulumoe Kupuhea Johnson born 1875, and David Malo Kupuhea who was actually born on Kahaka‘aulana in 1872. He was an active member of Legislation for the Territory of Hawaii, and the last konohiki of Ke‘ehi. Our Kupuna wahine, Mahina o Hokumalamalama Kupuhea raised on Kahaka‘aulana 1925-WWII shared many mo‘olelo with me of living on Kahaka‘aulana and walking the papa of Ke‘ehi. I have also spent my life in this wahi pana of Ke‘ehi fishing with my grandfather and father who were raised in these waters of ke‘ehi. Presently, I continue to mālama and share this wahi pana with thousands of people who come to our program under our non-profit called **Mauiola Ke‘ehi**.

I have worked as an archaeologist for the past 2 decades and have studied this sacred wahi pana intensely. The traditional inoa of “*sand island*” was Moku Akulikuli then Kamehameha V Lota Kapuāiwa renamed it **MAUIOLA**. Today you can pull up the USGS map and see the pin point of Kahaka‘aulana, it is still there, we still mālama this sacred place. The information on google is inaccurate, it states that it was also known as Quarantine island in the 19th century. We have numerous maps from early 1900’s with the name of Mauiola depicted on it. See attachment

I respectfully offer this testimony because restoring the name **Mauiola** will restore its MANA, community healing, and public understanding of our sacred 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 “life force”, “breath of life” and the name of our health deity. Restoring our kupuna name will restore our MANA and our kupuna vibration!

Mahalo nui for your careful consideration and for the Board’s kuleana to perpetuate our ‘ike Kupuna. I respectfully support restoring **Mauliola** as the official name.

Me ke aloha,
Kehaulani Kupihea

Kēhaulani Kupihea
Founder & Executive Director
Mauliola Ke’ehi 501(c)3

From: [Joanna Philippoff](#)
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 11:40:52 PM

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

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

I am a faculty member at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and I have a direct relationship to this place through my classes; my students and I partner with Mauiola Keehi on project that blend science, education, and cultural practices. 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,

Joanna Philippoff

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Joanna Philippoff, PhD

Director, [Marine Option Program](#)

Associate Specialist, School of Life Sciences

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

From: [Felicidy Phimmasone](#)
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 10:45:22 PM

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

My name is Felicidy Phimmasone, 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 in public health at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I have a direct relationship to this place through education, canoe paddling, community service, stewardship 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.

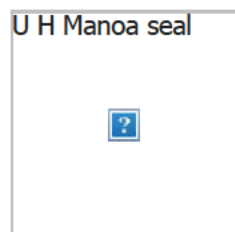
The name, Mauiola, better reflects Hawaiian place-based knowledge and supports the Board's cultural and historical criteria for name changes. Restoring Mauiola strengthens community connection, education, and accountability to place - especially for youth and residents who learn their history through the landscape.

As someone who works directly with communities, I believe the name change will support education (schools, university partners, and community learning) and 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,
Felicidy Phimmasone
Kaimukī, O'ahu, Hawai'i



Felicidy Phimmasone, BAPH
Graduate Student, Master of Public Health
Specialization: Native Hawaiian and Indigenous Health
Department of Public Health Sciences
Graduate Assistant, Health Sciences Institute
