



Keau Kukui `Ula Heiau Hui

Kate Kealani Winter, Co-chair Ric Likeke Bumanglag, Co-chair Jeff Nohea Alexander, Res.& Doc.

Sept. 9, 2020

Maxine Cutler
County of Hawai'i
Public Access, Open Space, and Natural Resources Preservation Commission
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2103
Hilo, Hi, 96720

Re: Acquiring District 7 Royal Vistas, TMK (3) 7-6-021:016 & 017

Aloha Ms. Cutler:

As the hui that is responsible for the preservation and protection of Keau Kukui `Ula Heiau in the Pualani Estates subdivision, we have substantial experience with the consequences of having Kona lands developed. We write to express our concern that the property identified above needs protection and preservation.

Looking at the overlay of maps of the ahupua'a of Puapua'a Nui within which Pualani Estates sits, it is evident that the developer's changes to our landscape erased, obscured and destroyed much of the history and cultural artifacts that lay in and on the land. That history is gone. It cannot be recreated. The archeological studies done make it clear that the bulldozers took out sacred ground and burials as well as remnants of ancient and later trails. Some culture and history has been lost for all time.

The lands of Pualani and those in the area identified above were significant parts of the Kona Field System (KFS), a remarkable agricultural achievement that fed and supported a large population in a fairly inhospitable area. Kona had no perennial streams, but the early Hawaiians here were *akamai* about making best use of the contours and resources of the land to feed and house the people. The land proposed for acquisition retains some of that kind of historical evidence which was lost when Pualani was built.

In addition, the area contains one of the few seasonal watersheds that could provide insight into the historical uses of the land in relation to water sources. Additional interpretive study could reveal substantive information about the history and cultural uses of the KFS. That study could not be done if the land were to be developed.

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The lava tubes and caves that have already been identified on that land may yet yield significant material. In Pualani Estates, burial sites were destroyed and desecrated when the land was ripped open. The bulldozers of development are not discriminating. We support preserving the history of the area. While there have been significant preservation efforts along Kona's shoreline, it seems that this parcel would be the first if not only upland preserve. That alone makes it a remarkable opportunity to plan, preserve and protect Hawaiian history and culture.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration.



Kate Kealani H. Winter
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Jeff Nohea Alexander