MINUTES FOR THE
BRIEFING OF THE
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2006
TIME: 4:00 P.M.
PLACE: KALANIMOKU BUILDING
LAND BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM 132
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Chairperson Peter Young called the meeting of the Board of Land and Natural Resources to order at 4:13 p.m. The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Mr. Peter Young
Mr. Toby Martyn
Ms. Taryn Schuman
Mr. Gerald DeMello
Mr. Ron Agor

STAFF

Ms. Holly Leong, Personnel
Ms. Yara La Madrid-Rose, State Parks
Ms. Tiger Mills, OCCL
Mr. Robert Masuda, CO
Mr. Morris Atta, Land
Ms. Lauren Tanaka, State Parks
Mr. Randy Kennedy, DOFAW
Ms. Debbie Ward, CO
Mr. Mike Constantinides, DOFAW
Mr. Dean Aoki, CO
Ms. Juliet Kazanjian, Fiscal
Mr. Francis Oishi, DAR
Ms. Jennifer Bethel, CO
Ms. Betsy Gagne, DOFAW
Ms. Jolie Wagner, DOFAW
Mr. Curt Cottrell, DOFAW
Ms. Jeannie Fujikawa, CO
Ms. Athline Clark, DAR
Ms. Christen Mitchell, DOFAW
Mr. Gary Moniz, DOCARE

OTHERS

Mr. Kepa Maly
Mr. Sam Gon
Mr. Clyde Namu'o
Ms. Theresa Dawson
Mr. Manu Boyd
Ms. Haunani Apoliona
Mr. Jonathan Scheuer
Ms. Diana Leone

Chairperson Young pointed out at the December meeting of the Commission on Water Resource Management, Kepa Maly spoke to those present about the cultural importance of water. After hearing Mr. Maly's twenty minute presentation, Mr. Young invited him to conduct a presentation before the Board dealing with the cultural importance of Hawaii's natural resources. The presentation began with Manu Boyd and Sam Gon recited an ole.

Mr. Boyd performed an ole that asked the question "Where is the Water of Kane" to which the reply is that the water of Kane is everywhere – it's at the rising sun, the setting sun, the mountains, the valley's the ocean, the stream's, the rainbow's, the springs of the earth and the rain. The ole ends by saying water sustains life, water is everywhere and water is important.

Sam Gon performed an ole regarding the changes that happen to the land and how we can make the correct changes for the resources that are on the land and in the water. Prior to the ole Mr. Gon chanted about how the lands are decorated with the beauties of the forest which are fed by the mist of the tradewinds.

As background information Mr. Maly disclosed he was raised on Oahu and Lanai. His kupuna on Lanai were born in 1892. His wife's kupuna was an esteemed woman of Hawaiian history. Over his lifetime Kepa has been spent time with kupuna's to gather their stories. It is Mr. Maly's wish for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to capture the voices of our kupuna's in detailed oral history programs because once they die the experiences die with them.

If those present get nothing else from his presentation Mr. Maly wants everyone to remember when people talk about issues of land, water and the ocean in the truest sense of the Hawaiian context they are speaking about family, their gods. He stated people can not focus on only what was lost. Mr. Kepa's presentation dealt with the knowledge he has obtained over the years but he noted that not all knowledge comes from one school but he will speak on what he has learned. Mr. Kepa told those in attendance that we must share our knowledge with others so it can be passed on to future generations. Mr. Kepa asked those present to keep the knowledge he has shared with them that is good but if he says something offensive that they do not agree with to please set it aside.

Mr. Maly spoke of a book titled "Fragments of Hawaiian History" by John Papa Ii. He spoke of Mr. Ii's role in life which was to tend to the children and grandchildren of Kamehameha I. He observed the last human sacrifice at Papaenaena, witness the reawakening of the heiau and the putting to sleep of the heiau after the death of Kamehameha I. In the 1860's Mr. Ii wrote a series of articles for a Hawaiian language newspaper and these articles have been translated into "Fragments of Hawaii." Mr. Kepa questioned if the articles were fragmented at the time Mr. Ii wrote those articles it would mean that changes would have already occurred to the original work.

Mr. Maly went on to talk about the issue of land ownership. He pointed out in 1848 to 1855 when native tenants of the land were granted the right under a western system to private land ownership many Hawaiian's applied for land they lived on and were actively working on. But during that time 5,000 of those Hawaiians died and their claims were lost. So when dealing with land issues, Mr. Maly asked the Board to remember that a lot has happened but the Board needs to be able to listen to the issues while putting aside people's anger so that they can read through

the issues and understand it. While we need to understand what tradition is at the same time we need to do what we can to save something because so much has been lost.
Mr. Maly encouraged the Board to read an ethnographic study he conducted dealing with the native traditions, lore's and historical accounts of Mauna Kea. This seven hundred page document consists of native and historical accounts of Mauna Kea and it does not include any science. (Mr. Maly also conducted a study on the oral history of Sacred Falls.) He spoke of Mauna Kea being likened to a sacred landscape in which each part contributes to the integrity of the entire mountain. Mr. Kepa let it be known he has spoken with Hawaiian's that worked the mountain during the time of construction and they've stated that no burials were found or disturbed during construction phase. Upon speaking with kupuna's regarding on this issue he noted many of them feel that what's there is there and we can't do anything about it but, those using the mountain need to show us that they can be good stewards of the land by taking care of it and respected it. The kupuna's also asked that no other construction be allowed on Mauna Kean instead we should make good use of what is already there.

Mr. Maly indicated when Hawaiians look at land, its family, it's and embodiment of the gods. Mr. Kepa spoke of a tutu that was taught to call upon the gods before traveling into the mountains. Should the mist come down upon them while traveling in the mountains it might mean they've done something wrong. Tutu then stated they would proceed to communicate with the gods telling the gods they were lost and asked for help. Through this story Mr. Maly is not saying we should live like they did in the past but to recognize that maybe we are not the masters of the land but if we are good servants to the land we'll be rewarded by the resources from the land, the food.

Mr. Maly asked the Board when making decisions regarding the land and the water to remember it is not just a commodity. He noted the western way of looking at the environment is to measure how much you can get out of the land because they are detached from the land, but Hawaiians have a cultural attachment to the land so they view it differently. Mr. Maly told the Board they must arrive at a balance in order for the land to provide for future generations.

Mr. Maly invited those present to ask questions which he would try to answer. Questions were raised dealt with beach access, construction at Mauna Kea, and the items found at Forbes Cave.

Haunani Apoliona, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) told the Board they were happy to be here to listen to Mr. Maly's presentation. Ms. Apoliona spoke of having the same concern the Board has which is to protect the land. She made it known through today's presentation she can appreciate the job that the Board has. Ms. Apoliona let it be known if we can honor, respect and accept the genealogy and lineage of Hawaii it will make the decision process easier. She told the Board the view of OHA is to "talk story" to avoid any disconnect so things can be solved the right way.

Mr. Maly ended the presentation by asking everyone to remember this phrase, "O Ka mea maka'i malama, o ka mea maika'i ole, ka pae ia" which translates to "Keep the good and set the bad aside."

There being no further business, Chairperson Young adjourned the briefing at 5:56 p.m. Tapes of the meeting and all written testimony submitted at the meeting are filed in the Chairperson's Office and are available for review.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Crowell

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Approved for submittal:

PETER T. YOUNG
Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources