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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

January 8, 2013

RECEIVED
2013 JAN -9 AM 11: 09
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Honorable Members of the Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Honorable Members of the Council:

SUBJECT: THE ORGANIZATION I ALOHA MOLOKAI (IAM) HAS
PRODUCED A NEW EIGHT MINUTE FILM CALLED "OUR
MOLOKAI"

Attached is an email that I received from Larry Tool from I Aloha Molokai. The organization says the film "attempts to show and explain what it is we are trying to preserve here on Molokai, from a Hawaiian point of view". IAM would like the council or Council committee to view the film.

I would like to request that this matter be referred to the appropriate standing committee to view and discuss. Please notify Mr. Tool of IAM at toolohana@hawaiiantel.net when this matter is scheduled by the committee.

Thank you for your consideration. Should you have any questions or require clarification, please contact me.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gladys C. Baisa".

GLADYS C. BAISA
Council Chair

Attachment

GCB:dna

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 13-22

Amanda Martin

From:	Joann tool <toolohana@hawaiiintel.net>
To:	<gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us>
Date:	1/4/2013 7:42 PM

Aloha Gladys, A bunch of us here at I Aloha Molokai want to congratulate you on your elevation to Chair. Danny ran a classy meeting and we're happy to see that tradition continue.

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I don't know if you can make it to our Energy Festival, but we hope you can. Doug is confirmed for the government panel, so we are in good hands. As you probably know our special guests this year are 5 members of the Quechan tribe from Ocotillo, Calif. who are fighting to save their reservation land from wind turbines, installed by none other than Pattern Energy. They will be testifying about how they've been treated and what we are up against.

We have made an 8 minute film about Molokai, showing what it is we are trying to save, from a Hawaiian point of view. The central line in the film is: "Molokai is a fragile remnant of a vanishing world." It's nonpolitical and our test audiences have found it quite moving. We would like to present it to the Council, either when you all come here, or by sending PF Bentley and his high tech projector to Maui. (He's rightly proud of this one.) Can you suggest where and when such a presentation might be appropriate? If you make it to the Festival (Jan 11 & 12) we will make sure you can preview it.

Best wishes, Larry Tool

Page 1 of 1

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Best wishes, Larry Tool

Amanda Martin - Film for Council

From:	joann tool <toolohana@hawaiiantel.net>
To:	<Gladys.Baisa@mauicounty.us>
Date:	1/5/2013 7:39 PM
Subject:	Film for Council

Aloha Gladys, Thanks for your help. I will draft the letter and send it tomorrow. Meanwhile, here is the text which Kanoho reads in the film. PF has found photographs or videos to illustrate every line, and added some chant and other sound effects. The ending is particularly effective. We expect to be at the service as well; perhaps we can show you the film that day. Best, Larry

OUR MOLOKAI

Aloha, I am Kanohowailuku Helm, born and raised here in Hawaii on the beautiful island of Molokai. I can trace my family back many generations. Even today, we still live much as our ancestors lived, those daring voyagers who sailed here from the South Pacific two thousand years ago. On Molokai we farm, we fish and we hunt for our food. We rarely visit a store. On the hills and cliffs near my home are ancient house sites, and fishing markers still in use. One marker indicates a deep hole, where I dive for ulua whenever we host a funeral or a large feast.

When we hunt we follow ancient trails, and often pass by the graves of our ancestors. The land here is alive with memories and traditions. For us, the old ones are still here, walking with us. They guide our steps; they watch over our children.

Molokai is a small island, 38 by 10 miles, in the center of the archipelago. It has the highest sea cliffs, the deepest valleys, the longest reef outside of Australia, a lei of ancient fish ponds, and the tragically beautiful Kalaupapa Leper Colony, where Saint Damien worked and died.

Molokai Pule O'o – Molokai of the Ripening Prayer – was famous throughout Hawaii for its priests and prophets. Here the old gods made their last stand when missionaries converted the people to Christianity. Here we still have sites that are kapu (taboo). Here we are still taught stories and rituals forbidden to outsiders.

On Molokai you can't avoid the past. The island is covered with ancient stonework --- forts and temple platforms on the hills, taro ponds, waterworks, house and village walls in the valleys, and fishponds along the shore. The massive scale of this construction suggests a labor force many times larger than today's population of 7300. The larger sites involve millions of water rounded stones, many vastly beyond the strength of one man, and installed in areas far away from rushing streams or pounding waves. One legend says the Menehunes brought the stones over the mountain in a single night; another claims a lava tube under the mountain linked the wet side with the dry. At one time there were over 60 fishponds,

covering many thousands of acres and producing hundreds of tons of fish. With great effort, a few of these ponds are being restored.

Equally astonishing was the labor that went into agriculture. Kalo (or taro) was not just a key food brought by the voyagers; taro was part of the family, an elder brother; not just a root, but the root of life. Beneath the jungle in each of Molokai's deep valleys lies a vast network of channels and ponds, which allowed taro cultivation from the waterfalls to the sea. When it rains really hard, you can still watch them fill.

On Molokai's dry West End, where the state wants to build giant, industrial wind turbines, the land looks empty. But nothing could be further from the truth. Buried here in caves and lava tubes are thousands of our ancestors. To the South is a peninsula where kahunas (priests) gathered to pray. Along the shore are dunes where the dead were prepared for burial. Here are adz and obsidian quarries which supplied all the islands. Here are ancient springs, house sites and temples.

For us, the land is an open air history book. The names on the land are the names of the people who come from, and return to, that land. Every hill and valley, every grove and rock, has a personality, a story and a use. And each story unlocks a doorway to perpetual nourishment for our people. This is what we mean when we say that the land is alive and we are its children.

On this Molokai mountaintop, which has a view of five other islands, the ancient art of hula was created. Tourists know hula as a dance form, but in an oral culture it was also a way to remember and pass on traditions. If you understand all the dances and chants, then you understand a lot about our living culture.

Ours is also a water culture. We learn to swim and paddle from the cradle. The ocean, which separates the islands today, once united them. Located at the center, Molokai was once a bustling crossroad, trading and intermarrying with Maui to the East and Oahu to the West.

Under the monarchy, Molokai offered Hawaiian rulers a refuge from the pressures of court. According to several accounts, it was King Kamehameha V who planted our famous coconut grove, began the leper colony, released the deer we hunt, and built a stately vacation house called Malama, near the present harbor. It is said that when the tide was high, the ocean tiptoed submissively in to wash the king's feet. The foundation remains, but is squarely in the path of development.

Hawaiian culture and identity came out of the land, not out of a book. In order to save them, we have to leave some of the living land undisturbed.

Molokai is a fragile remnant of a vanishing world. But we think it can be a saving remnant, a place where renewal can begin, not just for us, and not just for Hawaiians, but for everyone.

We want to honor the past, not just for the sake of our ancestors, but for the sake of our

children. For the children we have to make sure that this (view of single car on Molokai road) does not become this... (which fades into time lapse of Waikiki traffic).

The ancient voices of the land will not be heard, unless we all speak out. The real Hawaiian culture will fade away, unless all the children of the land, both native and adopted, join together to protect it. We ask for your help, not just to save Molokai, but to save something precious we all risk losing forever.

Jan 5, 2013 04:57:22 PM, Gladys.Baisa@mauicounty.us wrote:

>Happy New Year Joann & Larry. I had seen the announcement of the Energy fair but can't get away on those days to Molokai to attend. I am going over on the 19th for Annette's services. I think we can find a way to show your video to the Council under one of our committees but I will need to check to see which committee can do it. Meanwhile, if you will send me (as Chair) a simple letter, describing what it is about and requesting that the matter be referred to the appropriate committee for a presentation to be scheduled, I will work on getting it shown. Sounds very interesting & worthwhile. See you soon
Aloha, Gladys

>-----Original Message-----

>From: joann tool <toolohana@hawaiiantel.net>

>To: Gladys Baisa <Gladys.Baisa@mauicounty.us>

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>Sent: 1/4/2013 7:38:48 PM

>Subject:

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Amanda Martin

From: joann tool <toolohana@hawaiiantel.net>
To: <gladys.baisa@mauicounty.us>
Date: 1/5/2013 7:59 PM

Aloha Chairwoman Baisa,

I am writing on behalf of I Aloha Molokai. We have created a new film called "OUR MOLOKAI," which attempts to show and explain what it is we are trying to preserve here on Molokai --- from a Hawaiian point of view. The film is the work of photojournalist and professional filmmaker PF Bentley. It features a voiceover narration by Kanoho Helm and contains many gorgeous and moving shots of the island. It runs about eight minutes and is non-political. Unlike our other films, it has not been released to Youtube or Civilbeat. We would like an opportunity to show it to the Council, if you can suggest a good time to do so.

Could you please forward this letter to the appropriate committee for consideration? Mahalo and best wishes.

Sincerely, Larry Tool for IAM