

January 9, 2017

ITEM 5  
RES 16-273



Aloha to the City and County of Honolulu  
Parks, Community and Customer Services Committee,

My name is Ann Marie Kirk. I am the creator of Maunalua.net which is a cultural and historical website for Maunalua, Oahu. The Maunalua.net website shares stories of the area from community members, cultural practitioners, historians, archeologists and from resources documents, maps, books and Hawaiian language newspapers.

In the process of creating the website, and the on-going collection of stories, a person whose name keeps appearing in stories of Maunalua is that of Joseph Lukela. Mr. Lukela lived near the makaha which was located where the last bridge into Hawaii Kai is located today.

As the famed konohiki of Maunalua Bay, whose actually boundary waters went all the way from Maunalua to Makapuu, Lukea was a skilled ocean manager and understood the ways of the ocean areas.

There are numerous stories of Lukela's greatness as a fisherman and how he managed the large schools of mullet in the waters of Maunalua.

At the great Keahupua o Maunalua fishpond there are stories of Lukela lifting the large gates of the makaha, and as the water rushed out, hundreds of fish would swim through his legs to get into the massive fishpond.

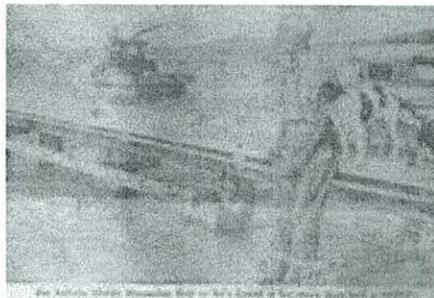
In addition, unbeknownst to many, Hawaiian navigation methods continued to be practiced by Lukela during the twentieth century. Kupuna tell stories of Lukela still navigating by the stars, winds, waves, clouds and currents. This is incredible and it took place and is part of the amazing history of Maunalua and Maunalua Bay

The more I learn about Mr. Lukela, his life, his achievements, his great knowledge and history of Maunalua, the more I am convinced he needs to be acknowledged and honored. This recognition is long overdue for Mr. Lukela and his ohana. This honor cannot come soon enough for his descendants. His family includes Joe Lukela III who is in his late 80's, his granddaughter Sandra Park, and his great, great grandson, Kekaimalu Lee who is an apprentice navigator on the voyaging vessel Hiki'analia.

Maunalua.net and the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center are working with Mr. Lukela's family to document Mr. Lukela's story and to have that history shared with the community. It's important stories of our area and our kupuna are celebrated and shared, if not their stories and the story of our 'aina and kai will be lost forever. We cannot let that happen. This initiative also has the full support of our Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board.

I hope your committee will support Resolution 16-273 to honor Mr. Joseph Lukela of Maunalua.

Aloha,  
Ann Marie Kirk  
Maunalua.net



Joe Lukela  
1879-1966  
Maunalua, Oahu

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