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Please SUPPORT Resolution 16-273 - Mahalo

January 9, 2017

Aloha to the City Parks Committee ~

First and foremost, may I please introduce myself I am the granddaughter of Mr. Joe Lukela, the last Konohiki of the ponds of Maunalua bay. My father is John I. Lukela, he and my mom Amelia K. Lukela legally adopted me in 1965 at one years old.

In the Hawaiian culture it was the norm to Hanai a child, and that child kept their last name, still today many are blessed to be hanai'd by loving family. I feel particularly blessed because I legally took the last name "Lukela" and my biological name and birth certificate are now sealed away in the State of Hawaii archives. Being adopted by the whole "Lukela" family is a divine intervention in my life and made me who I am today, I am still blessed to today with all my uncles, aunties and cousins with the last name "Lukela".

The Lukela family may not be my biological family and I may not have the exact same DNA, but I have the same heart, morals and values as my Lukela family. Love was instilled in me by my mom and dad. They all have given me so much Love and guidance from the day I was adopted. I was the baby of the family where as my cousins were in there teens. I was so lucky be chosen by the Lukela family. Thus, I was even given the name "Baby Helen" I can only imagine where I would be today or the person I would have been if not adopted. The stories I have heard about my "Tutu Man" are truly amazing and truly that of a Hero. His legend of being the last konohiki still has me in awe and I am so proud and honored to be able to write this letter.

He was a blessing to the Hawaiian people and to his family. I may have only been two years old when he passed away, but I remember the pier and people crabbing there near Tutu man's house. His teaching lived within his children and they taught others the true meaning of the Aloha Spirit "Love". I remember stories one in particular of him saving a man's life that almost drowned. I am certain that there are many more stories about him because of his amazing physical, swimming, and diving skills. Most importantly you see him in his children and the loving hearts he instilled in his them. This love permeates to his children who then like a ripple in the ocean traveled to so many other hearts. It is with a

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grateful heart that I am asking please honor my "Tutu Man" be for his legacy by erecting a sign honoring Joe Lukela at Maunalua Bay Beach Park.

The ponds in Maunalua Bay were kept in perfect balance by legendary figures such as Joe Lukela, the most famous fisherman of the district. Stories abound of how he would predict each November when the mullet would arrive. He knew the ancient chants as well as how to read the clouds. When the fish were running he would navigate his sampan by the stars to Hana or Moloka'i without the use of a compass. Today Lukela Lane in Kalihi is named in his honor.

Please SUPPORT Resolution 16-273 to rename a portion of Maunalua Bay Beach Park in honor of Tutu, Joe Lukela.

Thank you for your time reading my letter, truly appreciated.

Vr,

Helen de la Rocha