



January 9, 2017

Councilmember Ann Kobayashi
Parks Committee Chair
Honolulu City Council Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Aloha Councilmember Kobayashi,

The Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center strongly supports Resolution 16-273 to honor Joe Lukela of Maunalua, O'ahu with signage at Maunalua Bay Beach Park. This action is long overdue. It is our belief that this will also be an excellent way to further educate our community about our ocean and cultural resources. Mr. Lukela was a great lawai'a (fisherman) of Maunalua who was well respected for his management of the Maunalua Fishery for over half a century. Under Mr. Lukela, the waters were said to go "black" from all the mullet swimming through the fishpond mākāhā (fish gate).

The Lukela legacy continues to hold much relevance today. He was known for his traditional knowledge of the tides and currents as well as the moon and stars. When the fish were running he would place flags in the water so that no boats would disturb them.

As the fisherman responsible for safeguarding the konohiki fishery, he provided great quantities of freshly caught fish for the people of O'ahu. He generously shared large catches of fish with the elderly at Lunalilo Home and would fill the baskets of the families along the coast.

EMAIL: maunaluafishponds@gmail.com

WEBSITE: maunaluafishpond.org

PCCS

Mr. Lukela faced many challenges over his lifetime as the longest residing occupant of Maunalua. For much of his life, he captured drinking water in a barrel as there were no water lines to the area. Fish were caught by the ton and rowed in a six-man whaleboat on a 24 mile round trip journey to the fish market. As a young man he signed the 1897 petition opposing the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. With the new government and societal changes, he faced tremendous pressures from fishing poachers.

At a time when speaking the Hawaiian language was officially discouraged, Mr. Lukela continued to actively converse in Hawaiian. Up until his last days, he could be seen at Maunalua Bay "alone with his dog by the sea, humming Hawaiian chants to himself". He was said to hold "a pure heart and spirit" and miraculously survived unscathed the tremendous tidal waves that devastated the neighboring homes.

Please support the community effort sponsored by the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center and Maunalua.net to honor Mr. Lukela, a great fisherman.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Cramer".

Chris Cramer
President