

Makena Advisory Committee Meeting Summary – 12/06/2001

Makena Advisory Committee held a meeting at Makena State Park on Wednesday, 12/5/01, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:45. Na Kupuna o Maui also attended, with their attorney, J.P. Schmidt. The press and other members of the public attended, as well as police and park security.

The purpose of the meeting was for the committee to look at various sites and discuss the plans for the location of various uses, such as camping, restrooms, necessary protection of wetlands and archaeological sites, etc.

In order to accomplish the purpose of the meeting, discussion of Little Beach as well as a visit to it was deferred until another time. J.P. Schmidt announced Na Kupuna had asked him to apply for both state and national historic and cultural site status for the park.

A partial list of committee (task force) members present is:

Phil Ohta, Mary Evanson, Charlie Maxwell, Les Kululoio, Martha Martin, Skippy Hau, Melissa Kirkendall, Matt _____ (county Planning Department), Fern Duvall, Don Jensen (Citizen's Patrol), Dick Hyers (Friends of Little Beach).

The next meeting of the task force will be the third week in January, on a Wednesday. Possible attendees include the owners of private land adjacent to Black Sand Beach, who have requested a meeting with the task force.

The major points of discussion today were

1. Wetlands Protection, birds
2. Archaeological sites and survey
3. Cultural significance
4. Campsite location, also caretaker residence

Aloha, Sally

(Details follow -- note that all are tentative discussion, not decisions)

1. Wetlands Protection

There are 2 wetland areas, (plus another near Black Sand beach), and a fishpond site. The group inspected the largest area. Wetlands are already federally protected, they can be identified even when dry by the vegetation (Fern). A court has recommended they be fenced. There are already 12 Hawaiian stilts in the area (Fern). The fence should be a "look-thru" kind, and will be the FIRST predator-proof fence in the country (?) or the first in sand (?). It will extend 18 inches into the ground in a trench, therefore there must be an archaeological survey where it will go. The kiawe trees should be cut at the ground, without excavating the roots, and possibly when they stop drinking up water the pond limits will expand (Dick Hyers). Feral cats and rats must be eliminated within the fence, somehow. Also trees just outside the fence must be cut so cats can't drop inside the fence. Plants native to South Maui should be planted, and perhaps a brackish well to support new plants (Les). There needs to be an arch. survey before planting (Melissa), since first few inches are important. There should be 3 separate fenced areas, not one large one to include all. Ducks Unlimited may help with funding for fence, state has no funds (Phil).

The area between the beach and the wetlands (including the low dune) has burials and should be a buffer zone, not for camping (consensus).

There should be an observation point and trails so public can see the birds and the pond. If the kiawe is removed, the original plants will come back (Fern).

2. Archaeological sites and survey

Process is lengthy, its important to get a survey ASAP. First few inches are important. Fence and planting must follow survey. (Melissa)

3. Cultural significance

This beach (or offshore?) is the birthplace of the demigod Maui. There should be a plaque "this is where Maui was born" (Charlie) Interpretive signs in English and Hawaiian (Phil). Needs to be Pu'u o La'i State Park, not Makena State Park (Mary) It is the intention of the state to protect the cultural resources of the park (Phil)

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4. Campsite location, also caretaker's residence

The group traversed the level area between the two access roads, on the roadway side of the wetlands. The campsite will be placed some wherein that area, adjacent to one or both of the access roads. Concerns are close to parking, security. Additional parking for camping will be gravel. Restrooms will be either on sewer or tanks, not composting toilets. They should not be concrete block, should be less obtrusive, but should be fire proof. There will be barbecue pits, no fires on the beach(consensus).

The fireplaces should be downwind, sometimes very strong winds (Les).

The second parking lot is underutilized, it would be good to have the camping near it (Don Jensen).

Kiawe trees in camping area should be removed, brittle and dangerous, thorny (consensus). Replace with wili wili, native to area, beautiful flowers (Fern).

There will be a live-in caretaker (Phil), residence may be near the old house foundation (Les's uncle raised pigs there). Phil has told the engineers to proceed with electricity supply, but which side it (and phone line) will come in from is not yet determined. Security will be needed during construction.

Site for beach restrooms is not yet determined.

There may be another campsite, near Black Sand beach (Phil). There is another wetland in that area. Also, restrooms will be needed for Black Sand Beach (Fern).