

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**O‘ahu Island Site Visit Summary
Mauna ‘Ala, The Royal Mausoleum State Monument**

**Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees
Summary Report
October 17, 2024 – 2:30 pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Kalei Akaka
Trustee Keoni Souza

ADMINISTRATION:

Stacy Ferreira, CEO
Ku‘ike Kamakea-Ohelo, Dir. of ‘Oiwī Well-Being
Hailama Farden, Dir. Of Hwn. Cultural Affairs
Maki‘ilei Ishihara, Strategy Consultant
Jason Lees, COMMS

BOT STAFF:

Lehua Itokazu, Board Secretary
Amber Kalua, Trustee Aide
Mark Watanabe, Trustee Aide
Nathan Takeuchi, Trustee Aide
Pohai Ryan, Trustee Aide

GUEST:

Paula Akana

I. Call to Order

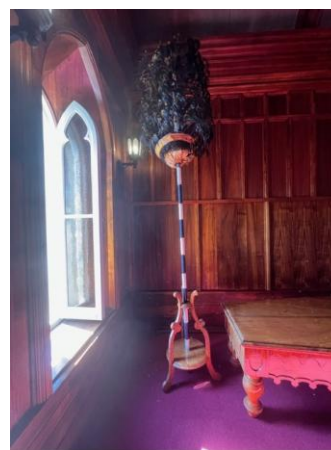
Site visit starts at 2:45 p.m.

II. Site Visit

This site visit at Mauna ‘Ala (Royal Mausoleum) provided a comprehensive historical overview of its origin, purpose, and continued cultural significance as the sacred burial place of Hawaiian ali‘i. Established in the mid-19th century on land set aside by Queen Emma, Mauna ‘Ala was created to house the remains of Kamehameha II and Queen Kamāmalu after their deaths abroad, and later became the final resting place for members of the Kamehameha, Kalākaua, and related royal lines. The presentation emphasized traditional Hawaiian funerary protocols, including nighttime processions, mele, oli, kahili, and strict kuleana in caring for iwi kūpuna, underscoring Mauna ‘Ala as a mausoleum of the highest chiefly rank rather than a conventional cemetery.

The narrative highlighted Queen Emma’s profound grief and leadership following the death of Kamehameha IV, her role in ensuring the dignity of her family’s burials, and the subsequent development of the chapel and tombs. It traced later reinterments, including the 1887 relocation of the Kamehameha ali‘i and the sealing of the Kamehameha Tomb following the death of Charles Reed Bishop, whose ashes were placed with Princess Bernice Pauahi Bishop in accordance with his wishes. The presentation also addressed the Kalākaua reinterments of 1910, carefully documented in Hawaiian-language sources, and noted that while 1953 was long considered the final burial, subsequent interments in the 21st century reaffirm Mauna ‘Ala’s living cultural role.

The visit concluded by recognizing Mauna ‘Ala as a place of ongoing responsibility, memory, and protocol, maintained through successive kia‘i and supported by restoration efforts by the State of Hawai‘i and community partners. Attention was given to genealogy, rank, and cultural continuity, as well as the importance of accurate storytelling grounded in Hawaiian-language sources.





III. Public Testimony

None

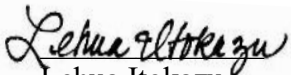
IV. Announcements

None

V. Adjournment

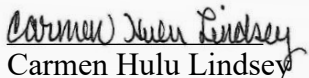
The site visit ends.

Respectfully submitted,



Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

Site Visit Summary Approved at Board of Trustees Meeting on December 18, 2025.



Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Attachments: *all excused memos and handouts will be attached to summary once approved