

December 13, 2021  
Agenda Item.

To: KIRC Commissioners  
From: Michael K. Naho‘opi‘i, Executive Director  
Subject: KIRC Support of PKO Iwi Kupuna Reinterment Request

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**RECOMMENDED MOTION:**

Authorize the KIRC Executive Director to send a letter to Bishop Museum, on behalf of the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission (the KIRC) , to request the repatriation of iwi removed from Kaho‘olawe; recognize the Protect Kaho‘olawe ‘Ohana (PKO) as the recipient organization, authorize the reinterment of the iwi on Kaho‘olawe and approve the coordination of the KIRC and PKO to conduct the reinterment.

**BACKGROUND & SUMMARY:**

The PKO is currently seeking to repatriate iwi kupuna that were removed from Kamohio, Kaho‘olawe during the 1914 Stokes expedition. The materials collected from Kamohio were later deposited in the collections of Bishop Museum. In 1998, the KIRC recognized the PKO as the recipient organization authorized to coordinate with the KIRC to reinter the subject iwi back to Kaho‘olawe. See the attached December 14, 1998 motion.

The PKO is requesting the KIRC’s support in asking Bishop Museum to conduct another in-depth search to locate any iwi originating from Kaho‘olawe for repatriation.

Additionally, upon locating the subject material, the PKO is requesting to be recognized as the recipient organization, in coordination with the KIRC, to transport and reinter the remains to Kaho‘olawe.

**LEGAL AUTHORITY:**

HRS6K-6: **Responsibilities and duties of the commission.** The general administration of the island reserve shall rest with the commission. In carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the commission:

- (8) Shall carry out those powers and duties concerning the island reserve otherwise conferred upon the island burial councils and the department with regard to proper treatment of burial sites and human skeletal remains found in the island reserve;