

**MĀLIA KA'AIHUE DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**PRESENTATION HEARING**

**Land Block 2, Project 4 (Kalae) (KAK 22-024)**

**Q Please state your name, place of employment, and position.**

A Mālia Ka'aihue, PhD, Founder and President, DTL Hawaii.

**Q How long have you held this position?**

A Approximately 8 years, since January 2014.

**Q Please describe your educational background and professional experience.**

A Please see my resume, marked as an exhibit in this proceeding.

**Q Please tell us about your company, DTL Hawaii, and what it does.**

A DTL Hawaii (DTL) is a multidisciplinary Hawaiian strategy studio that helps businesses, governments, organizations, and communities navigate change. DTL has built a respected reputation within the community as a creative interpreter of culture through planning and design. DTL's deep understanding and knowledge of Hawaii's sensibilities and sensitivities has led to it successfully facilitating dialogs, bridging perspectives and developing appropriate collaborative solutions to both challenging issues and exciting opportunities within our community.

**Q Please describe the assistance that Victoria Ward, Limited (VWL) requested with respect to this project, Kalae (Block B).**

A VWL requested that DTL present name candidates and recommendations for the Block B project, including the name that was ultimately chosen, Kalae. VWL also requested that DTL describe VWL's approach and commitment to integrating cultural narratives and elements within Ward Village developments, including Kalae.

**Q Why is it important to treat the process of developing, bestowing, and accepting the name for a project with respect and care?**

A The Hawaiian word for name is *inoa*, and Hawaiians have long considered it to be a person's most important possession. It is believed that a name has *mana* (an influencing power or lifeforce) and because of this, the name becomes a living entity and causes beneficial outcomes for the individual. This is why new names were traditionally chosen only after careful thought and consultation.

**Q Please describe the process of how you developed the name Kalae.**

A The factors we use to arrive at the name candidates included reflecting on the significance of naming; evaluating name candidates based on the qualities of an effective name; evaluating the distinctiveness and ease of name candidates; evaluating the meaning, depth, positivity/negativity and ownability of name candidates; considering names inspired by the place or design of the building to be named; considering names inspired by VWL's brand messaging; and an overall discussion of these factors with VWL.

**Q What is the meaning and significance of the name Kalae, and how is the name reflected in the project's design and integration within Ward Village?**

A Kalae, Block B, is uniquely situated at the bend of Ala Moana Boulevard and prominently at the entrance of Ward Village.

The residences of Kalae will feature expansive views stretching from 'Ewa to Ala Moana to Waikīkī, Diamond Head, and beyond. While Lē'ahi, or Diamond Head, is known for the crater's profile resembling the lae, or brow of the ahi, it was previously called Lae'ahi. The name Kalae embodies the proud history and serene majesty of this cherished landmark and southern island point.

**Q Please describe VWL's approach and commitment to integrating cultural narratives and elements within Ward Village developments, including Kalae.**

A VWL demonstrates a commitment to respect and bring forward the history and culture of this special place by integrating cultural narratives and elements throughout Ward Village in several ways.

#### *Naming*

The naming of Kalae reflects the deep respect and gratitude for the project's prominent location at the entrance of Ward Village and its expansive views, which includes views of Lē'ahi, or Diamond Head, a cherished landmark.

Likewise, other developments within Ward Village, such as Ulana Ward Village and the Ka La'i o Kukuluāe'o Park, which were name candidates and recommendations provided by DTL, were selected by VWL to recognize and celebrate the rich history and culture of this special place.

#### *Location and Open Spaces*

Kalae is bounded in part by the future Victoria Ward Park (makai) to the east (Diamond Head) and the future tree lined Auahi Street pedestrian promenade to the north (mauka). The Victoria Ward Park (mauka) is near and, together with the makai side of the park, will total over 37,000 square feet of lush, green landscape. The 30,000 square

foot Ka La'i o Kukuluāe'o Park (formerly known as the Ewa Plaza) will also be located nearby, to the west of Kalae.

Ward Village, as a whole, will provide over 5.5 acres of open space and nearly 5.2 acres of public facilities for community gatherings and events – all secured and maintained without expense to the public.

Kalae's closeness to the open green space to be provided by the Victoria Ward Park (mauka and makai) and the Ka La'i o Kukuluāe'o Park is designed to allow residents and visitors to experience the different open green spaces and connect with the 'āina and one another in a way that is meaningful.

#### *Building Location and Orientation*

The building's location and orientation were carefully considered to preserve mauka-makai views. Mauka-makai views are not only important for visual aesthetics, but are also important to maintain the spiritual and metaphoric connectivity and balance that is and has been so important to Hawaiian culture and the people of Hawai'i since time immemorial.

#### *Use of Storytelling to Integrate Cultural Narratives and Elements*

The Ward Village Neighborhood is a part of the former Ward Estate which extended from Thomas Square to the shoreline. The over 100 acres of lands in the Ward Estate generated income from various goods and crops, such as makaloa grass, cattle, horses, taro, coconuts, kiawe firewood, fish, and salt from the estate's salt pans. Thus, the lands underlying the current Ward Village Neighborhood have a long history of productivity, culture, and community.

The Ward family home, known as Old Plantation, was located at the corner of King St. and Ward Ave., the present site of the Neal Blaisdell Center, and part of the Ward Estate. Waving palms, hala, and palai ferns, among other trees, plants, and flowers, provided ample shade and greenery. A photo of Old Plantation is included at page 3 of the development permit application for Kalae.

The Victoria Ward Park (mauka and makai) is planned to integrate cultural narratives through storytelling elements inspired by Old Plantation, which may include lyric sidewalks with ample shade and lush landscaping, play structures inspired by palai ferns, pergola structures inspired by the shade provided by waving palms, seating terraces in the makai park incorporating horses or cattle, and native flowers and flowering trees. In addition, culturally appropriate signage for wayfinding and to acknowledge the history of the area is planned to be featured throughout the Victoria Ward Park.

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