

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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September 25, 2002

Mr. Albert Batara
Hawaii Kyudo-Kai
1708 Nuuanu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Dear Mr. Batara:

Thank you for your informative letter of August 12, 2002 regarding the proposed Zen archery range that the City has considered siting in Mauumae Nature Park. We appreciate your relating information about how Zen archery is practiced and about other related Japanese cultural groups.

As pointed out at the neighborhood board meeting, the community's safety and security concerns related more to usage of the proposed facility by members of the general public rather than by the Hawaii Kyudo-Kai members themselves. Members of your group are, undoubtedly, very well trained and disciplined. However, any facility built with City taxpayers' funds or on City-owned property must be open to the public. City resources cannot be used to support facilities used by an exclusive group of people alone. Since other archers of considerably less experience and training will use such a facility, the provision of an ample buffer area is deemed essential.

The consensus of community members and the director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) was that there be a safety buffer area between the proposed archery range and areas of the park used by the public and the surrounding residential neighborhood.

While first formulating the park master plan, one of the assumptions we held was that the Board of Water Supply's (BWS) well site had been abandoned and the land might be reused for recreational purposes. We thought that this would be a nearly ideal site for archery range because it was relatively level and physically removed from other, more public areas in the park. Unfortunately, our assumption turned out to be untrue. We discovered belatedly that the BWS is planning to redevelop the well site, which they own and have legal jurisdiction over. The BWS has already prepared construction plans for improvements on the property and will begin construction soon.

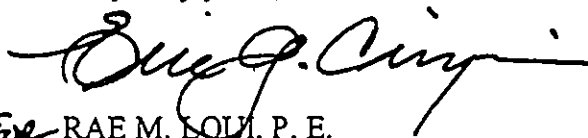
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When we learned of the BWS's plans, Dana Anne Yee and her engineering subconsultants determinedly looked for other practical sites within Mauumae Nature Park in which to site a Zen archery range. However, the only other available sites for your activity in the park were rejected because they either lacked a safety buffer area or were on very steeply sloped, undeveloped lands and impractical for construction of such facilities. After the presentation by Ms. Yee, the Kaimuki Neighborhood Board at its last meeting unanimously voted not to include the Zen archery range in the master plan for Mauumae Nature Park.

In consultation with the DPR, we will reassess the siting of the proposed Zen archery range at other possible parks.

Please contact Mr. Terry Hildebrand of our Facilities Division at 523-4696, if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,


For RAE M. LOU, P. E.
Director

RML:ei

cc: Mayor Jeremy Harris
Councilmember Duke Bainum
Councilmember Jon Yoshimura
Councilmember Gary Okino
William D. Balfour, Jr., Director, DPR
Malcolm Tom, Deputy Managing Director
Eric Crispin, Deputy Director, DDC
Vernon Tam, Chair, Kaimuki Neighborhood Board No. 4
V. Ohumukini, The Archery Coalition
✓ Dana Anne Yee, Landscape Architect
Toni Robinson, District I Manager, DPR