

Upcountry high will honor Kekaulike

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KAUNAKAKAI — "King Kekaulike High School" is the name selected for the new Upcountry high school, Maui District Superintendent Loke-lani Lindsey announced Monday night.

The name, which honors a powerful Maui chief, was approved by consensus by the Maui District School Advisory Council during its meeting on Molokai. The selection acts as a recommendation to state Superintendent Charles Toguchi, who must approve and submit the name to the state Board of Education for action.

The naming of the school becomes one of Lindsey's last acts as superintendent of the Maui District. She leaves her post Friday to become a Bishop Estate trustee.

Lindsey said the name King Kekaulike came from suggestions by four individuals in the community.

She described Kekaulike as one of the most powerful chiefs of Maui, a descendant of the Piilani chiefs. He established the kingdom of Maui and ruled from 1700 to 1736.

"In this, the year of the 100th anniversary of the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, the people of Hawaii are more aware of the unique cul-

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tural aspects of the Native Hawaiians," Lindsey wrote in a memo to the advisory council.

"As the Native Hawaiians paid homage to Queen Lili'uokalani, one became aware that the alii or chiefs of Hawaii were an integral, viable part of the ancient government, the religion and rituals held in the not-so-distant past.

"These chiefs were honored by the people and their noble deeds and memories were perpetuated through chants, storytelling and, in more modern times, songs."

Kekaulike means "the just." It also means "equality," "justice" and "fair," according to Pukui and Elbert's Hawaiian Dictionary.

In March 1736, Kekaulike died and his remains were taken to Haleki i Heiau in Kukahua (Paukukalo), according to Lindsey. After the ceremonies, he was taken to Iao Valley and was the last Maui alii to be interred there. His sons, Kamehameha-Nui, Kahekili, Kalanikupule and Ka'eokulani, all became alii of Maui.

Lindsey read a long list of names that were suggested but rejected. Included on the list were: Aina Luna, Blue Sky, Five Trees, Haleakala Horizon, Keopulani, Kula, Kula Kai, Paradise, Pine Fields, Punahale, Skyline, Valley Isle and White Stallion.

School Advisory Council member Alec McBarnet Jr. described the Kekaulike name as beautiful and appropriate.

"It will be wonderful when we are able to build so many schools in a year that we don't have enough people to name them after," he said.

Radio personality and Native Hawaiian advocate Charlie Maxwell said the name is "fantastic" and "really appropriate." He offered the Kekaulike Warriors as a suggestion for the school mascot.

Hokulani Holt-Padilla, director of Punano Leo O Maui preschool in Wailuku, said she likes the name Kekaulike, but not necessarily the title "King."

"For me it's a matter of semantics. I don't feel comfortable with the western term 'king,'" she said.

Kekaulike is the name of Highway 377 in Kula.

The high school is scheduled to open in September 1995 on a parcel now cultivated in pineapple at the Five Trees junction of Kula and Haleakala highways.