

Kekaulike High: BOE OKs name for new school

HILO — The planned Upcountry high school was officially christened "King Kekaulike High School" Thursday night in a unanimous vote of the state Board of Education.

The board, meeting on the Big Island at Waiakea Intermediate School, approved the name originally chosen by former Maui District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsey just before she became a Bishop Estate trustee in March.

King Kekaulike 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.

Kekaulike was described Thursday night as one of the most powerful chiefs of Maui, a descendant of the Piilani chiefs who ruled over the island 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 cultural aspects of the Native Hawaiians," according to the board's resolution.

"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," according to the resolution. It also means "equality," "justice" and "fair," according to Pukui and Elbert's Hawaiian dictionary.

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

Kekaulike is the name of Highway 377 in Kula between Kula Highway and Crater Road.

King Kekaulike was suggested by four individuals in a name search conducted by the Maui District.