

King Kekaulike High?

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Upcountry School May Be Named After Ancient King

If State Superintendent Charles Toguchi agrees and recommends to the Board of Education, the planned High School upcountry will honor one of Maui's most powerful ancient kings.

In one of her last official acts as District Superintendent of Maui's public schools, Lokelani Lindsey who is now a Trustee for the Bishop Estate, announced last week that she recommended to the Maui District School Advisory Council that the new upcountry school be named "King Kekaulike High School."

In its Feb. 22 meeting at Molokai's Kulapuu School, the advisory council voted to approve the selection. The recommendation now goes to Toguchi who will decide whether to urge acceptance of the choice by the Board of Education.

According to historical accounts and ancient Hawaiian chants, Kekaulike was a mighty warrior who rebuffed countless attempts by Alapai, the ruling chief of the Big Island, to conquer Maui. Alapai's failed invasions resulted in counterattacks by Kekaulike who led his Maui warriors to Kona and Kohala where he is said to have slaughtered thousands and desecrated the royal coconut groves of the region.

Kekaulike ruled Maui for 36 years, from 1700, until his death in 1736 when his remains were taken to the Haleki'i Heiau

in Kukahua (now Paukukalo). After the ceremonies, he became the last Maui alii to be interred in Iao Valley. His sons, Kamehameha-Nui, Kahekili, Kalanikupule and Ka'eokulani, each became alii of Maui.

The proposed name for the new high school which is expected to be in operation in 1995, was chosen from a list of nearly two dozen submitted by Maui residents.