

# Group quiet on ahu repairs to keep ceremony private

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Star-Bulletin

The Ohana Council is ready to rebuild the ahu destroyed at Makapuu Beach, but will not announce the time to keep the ceremony private, said Dennis "Bumpy" Kanahele, council leader.

"We're looking at anytime," Kanahele said yesterday.

Kanahele said the council, a native Hawaiian sovereignty group, also was considering building an ahu in Waikiki, Ewa of the aquarium.

He said his nephews had seen a white turtle in the ocean at that site, signifying that native Hawaiian ancestors were happy there.

Kanahele said the destruction of the ahu at Makapuu made him think that the council should put ahu in several places. An ahu is an altar atop a pile of rocks to honor Hawaiian gods and ancestors.

The state Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has authorized the reconstruction of the ahu at Makapuu, said Ruth Tsujimura, acting state attorney general.

She declined to comment on how the state would respond to building an ahu in Waikiki. "If the issue comes up, we would look into it," she said.

Kanahele said the council has the right to build an ahu at Waikiki.

He also said the council would

pursue federal criminal charges against those who destroyed the Makapuu ahu.

Tsujimura said government workers inadvertently flattened the ahu when they were installing pilings around the Makapuu parking lot.

She said the state investigation is continuing, but added Kanahele "should pursue whatever legal avenues are available to him."