

February 19, 2017

Dow Constantine
King County Executive
401 Fifth Ave., Ste. 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Joe McDermott
Chair, King County Council
516 Third Ave., Ste. 1200
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: King Co. purchase of the Mukai Fruit Barreling Plant

Dear Executive Constantine and Council Chair McDermott:

As Japanese American residents of Vashon Island and active participants in the Friends of Mukai organization, we wholeheartedly support King County's purchase of the historic Mukai Fruit Barreling Plant on Vashon Island.

Lonny Kaneko, a professor of English at Highline College, has been a Vashon resident for 35 years and currently is the residing Poet Laureate of Vashon. Dr. Joe Okimoto, a retired physician and a board member of Friends of Mukai, has resided on Vashon for 13 years. Both are interested in the restoration of the Mukai family properties but also preserving what is quintessentially an American immigrant success story. But our interests reach beyond this very important Mukai story in our concern for the education of future generations. We support the Friends of Mukai's vision of using the Mukai properties (Mukai house, Mukai Japanese Garden and Mukai Fruit Barreling Plant) as a center for community events and cultural activities that will include educational programs.

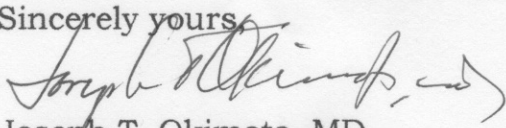
An example of a community event is our upcoming Day of Remembrance of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 2017 sponsored by Friends of Mukai. Both of us were incarcerated as a result of this executive order and will be speaking at this event about our personal experience as Japanese Americans during WWII. History has judged this governmental act as an error, and we do not want to see such injustice repeated again. We feel such community events, such as this Day of Remembrance, adds so much to the rich and diverse interests of Vashon

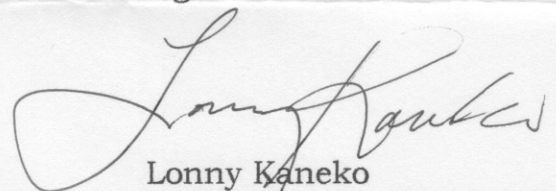
Island residents. This Day of Remembrance will take place at the Mukai House.

We also support the Friends of Mukai interest in negotiating a long term lease with King County that will allow it to reunite House and Garden with the Fruit Barreling Plant and manage the entire site. To that end, we support the Friends of Mukai's request that any excess proceeds from the sale of the County parcel to Frank Zellerhoff be given to them to fulfill their mission.

We are pleased to support the efforts of the Friends of Mukai and King County's purchase of the Fruit Barreling Plant.

Sincerely yours,


Joseph T. Okimoto, MD
Board member, Friends of Mukai


Lonny Kaneko
Professor of English, Highline
College
Vashon Poet Laureate