



PRESERVATION EFFORTS. In this undated photo provided by the U.S. National Park Service, an endangered Hawaiian monk seal rests on the beach of Pohue Bay on Hawai'i's Big Island. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island was given new land in a deal that will protect and manage an ocean bay area that is home to endangered and endemic species and to rare, culturally significant Native Hawaiian artifacts. (National Park Service via AP, File)

Hawai'i national park gets land where ancient villages stood

By Caleb Jones
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park on the Big Island has been given new land in a deal that will protect and manage a pristine white sand beach and ocean bay area that is home to endangered and endemic species and to rare, culturally significant Native Hawaiian artifacts.

Trust for Public Land, a national nonprofit land preservation group, transferred its ownership of Pohue Bay and surrounding land to the National Park Service.

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park has the world's largest and most active volcanoes, Mauna Loa and Kilauea. Most of the coastline where the bay is located is made of ancient lava flows, black rock, and sea cliffs that dart out into the ocean.

Pohue Bay, a rare and idyllic oasis in an otherwise rugged landscape, is home to endangered hawksbill sea turtles, green sea turtles, endangered Hawaiian monk seals, and other species found only in Hawai'i. The area houses anchialine ponds — landlocked pools with a mix of fresh and salt water — where rare Hawaiian red shrimp called 'opae'ula live.

The area is also culturally significant because it has remains of ancient Hawaiian villages, petroglyphs, burial sites, and the largest known abrader tool quarry in the state, according to the Trust for Public Lands. Abraders are ancient tools used for sanding, smoothing, and grinding.

Park officials hope to eventually open the area up to the public, but the 26 square miles of land will remain closed to visitors as national park staff consult with local

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Sudden arena idea angers, unnerves Philadelphia's Chinatown

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make up parts of Chinatown.

Wei described signs for chains like CVS and Starbucks appearing with Chinese translations beside them, calling it a "cosmetic illusion." Chen fears the changes to D.C.'s Chinatown could happen to Philadelphia.

"If you go inside a restaurant or a business, the workers aren't Asian anymore. The owner isn't Asian. And a lot of the customers aren't Asian," he said. "So where is the Chinatown? It's not there anymore."

But in Philadelphia, Chinese-speaking households have been one of the fastest-growing populations, according to the census. The community passed the 5% threshold recently, meaning Chinese languages became official ballot languages. Asian and other immigrant communities contributed to the city reversing a decades-long trend of losing population in recent censuses.

Helen Gym, the first Asian-American woman to serve on Philadelphia City Council and an at-large member, held up two t-shirts from previous fights against potentially detrimental developments wanting to come to Chinatown. The first says, "No stadium in Chinatown," and the second crossed out the word stadium and replaces it with "casino," for the 2008 proposal that hoped to put a casino near the current proposal for the arena.

Gym previously joined the fight against the stadium and said that now, as a council member, she is "extremely skeptical" of the 76ers proposal.

"To us, this is one of the most vital parts and neighborhoods and communities in the city of Philadelphia," Gym said. "This

side has been a community that has continued to invest in itself, in its people, in small businesses. And in fact, this side is the one that has grown the health and wellbeing of the city."

After the stadium failed in 2000, Gym said, the community developed the nearby space north of the expressway to add a public charter school, a community center, extensions of the Chinese Christian Church, the first Cambodian arts center, and other cultural organizations.

Wei was the first principal of that school, the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures charter school. She said the building's owner turned down offers from developers who wanted to build condos.

"People don't understand what Chinatown means to the people of this community, people all over the area who consider this their home," Wei said.

"There are precious few communities, real communities, left in Philadelphia. They are not just geographic; they are about relationships and memories. They are a place-based core that has been systematically destroyed not just in Philadelphia and the U.S., but around the world," Wei said. "And once Chinatown is gone, it's gone. You can't rebuild it."

Associated Press writer Shawn Marsh in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.



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