

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

LAIE HAWAII STAKE

October 15, 2006

Re: Kava Use – Worthiness for Temple Blessings and Priesthood Ordinations

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Laie Hawaii Stake:

For sometime now, we have been concerned about the use of kava by members of our stake. It has been a matter of much prayer and discussion among our stake and ward leaders.

After carefully reviewing the full effects of its modern-day use, especially the harmful impact of its use on marriages and families, counseling with priesthood leaders and reviewing the applicable doctrines, principles and covenants that govern temple worthiness and priesthood ordinations, among other things, we have decided that members of the Laie Hawaii Stake who wish to qualify for the blessings of the temple, and brethren qualifying for priesthood ordinations, shall first be free from the use of kava, including youth who wish to participate in baptisms for the dead and young men preparing for the Aaronic priesthood. This decision is effective as of the date noted above. As with other qualification requirements relating to temple worthiness and priesthood ordinations, commensurate with their priesthood keys local leaders retain the requisite authority in determining the worthiness of such candidates.

There may be other practices that will need to be reviewed and delineated over time. The principle we emphasize here is that all practices, cultural or otherwise, should be sifted through the gospel of Jesus Christ, and not the other way around. We advise that any such tradition, custom, cultural, family or individual practice that conflicts with gospel standards be set aside and avoided.

Thank you for your sustaining vote and support regarding this decision. We testify that the Lord will bless you as you continue to honor your covenants, obey His gospel and “seek after those things that are lovely and of good report.” (13th AOF)

Faithfully your brethren,

Laie Hawaii Stake Presidency

President /

1st Counselor

2nd Counselor /