



**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**National Park Service**

**[N6852; NPS-WASO-NAGPRA-NPS0041830; PPWOCRADN0-PCU00RP14.R50000]**

**Notice of Intended Repatriation: University of Denver Museum of Anthropology, Denver, CO**

**AGENCY:** National Park Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the University of Denver Museum of Anthropology intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of sacred objects and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

**DATES:** Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**].

**ADDRESSES:** Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Dena Sedar, University of Denver Museum of Anthropology (DUMA), 2000 E. Asbury Street, Denver, CO 80210, email [dena.sedar@du.edu](mailto:dena.sedar@du.edu).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the DUMA, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in the summary or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

**Abstract of information available**

A total of five cultural items have been requested for repatriation. The five sacred objects are one adze, one wall fragment, one stone pestle, one sling stone, and one poi pounder. These cultural items were collected by Fallis F. Rees during a trip to the Hawaiian Islands in the early 1960s. The exact collection locations are unknown, but Rees visited both Hawai'i Island and O'ahu during his trip. Rees donated the five sacred objects to the DUMA in 1967. There is no

record at DUMA that the items were treated with any potentially hazardous substance.

### **Determinations**

The DUMA has determined that:

- The five sacred objects described in this notice are specific ceremonial objects needed by a traditional Native American religious leader for present-day adherents to practice traditional Native American religion, according to the Native American traditional knowledge of a lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization.
- There is a reasonable connection between the cultural items described in this notice and Hui Iwi Kuamo'o.

### **Requests for Repatriation**

Additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice must be sent to the authorized representative identified in this notice under ADDRESSES. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or a culturally affiliated Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.

Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE **FEDERAL REGISTER**]. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the DUMA must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the cultural items are considered a single request and not competing requests. The DUMA is responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice and to any other consulting parties.

**AUTHORITY:** Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3004 and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.9.

Dated: January 9, 2026

**Melanie O'Brien,**  
*Manager, National NAGPRA Program.*

