

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 376**

February 12, 2009

Senator Clayton Hee  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Clayton Hee,

Re: Nomination to the Island Burial Council, Islands Maui and Lana'i

Aloha e Mr. Hee. At your request, here is my written statement that address your questions and concerns. Firstly, I would like to mention my sincere appreciation as a current interim council member serving the islands of Maui and Lana'i until July, 2009.

My personal commitment to serve the people and districts of which similarly serves myself is of utmost interest. In light of the Honokohua burials, and recent burial finds within Puali Komohana (Central Maui Isthmus), I find my personal knowledge of the use and benefit to our community at whole. My role has always been to assure proper treatment of our "iwi kupuna" with similar respect and dignity afforded to all human beings, living or deceased. Further, it is the responsibility of each district council member to assure cultural and lineal decendants, residents and alike, of lawful protection of our beloved in perpetuity.

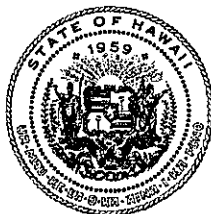
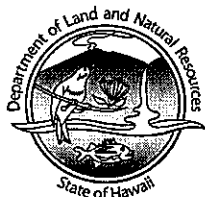
Additionally, my personal relationship with Kupuna throughout Maui County, along with my research and review of Historical data and practices of Kanaka Maole provides expertise necessary in decision making regarding "Iwi Kupuna". Therefore, it is my belief and hope to generate appropriate, well informed decisions pertaining to treatment of burials within our capacity and jurisdiction.

My compassion, knowledge and professionalism has and will remain essential tenets of current and future determinations. Therefore, while I foresee none, however, should a possible conflict of interest arise, I will respectfully submit to appropriate measures.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

James S. Ballao, M.Ed.  
51 Ka'ika'i St.  
Wailuku, HI 96793

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
**WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Monday, February 16, 2009  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
**GOVERNOR MESSAGE 376 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LANAI, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
JAMES S. BALLAO M.ED.**

It is with pleasure that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) recommends Senate confirmation on the appointment of James S. Ballao M.Ed. to the Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council.

The Island Burial Councils were established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to determine the preservation in place or relocation of previously identified native Hawaiian burial sites and to determine Hawaiian cultural and lineal descendancy claims for specific burials. State law requires that Island Burial Councils be established for Hawaii, Maui/Lanai, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai/Niihau islands, comprised of representatives from specific geographic regions and representatives of developer/large property owners.

James S. Ballao M.Ed. was nominated to serve as the Wailuku District representative on the Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council. If confirmed, James S. Ballao M.Ed. will serve until June 30, 2013.

James S. Ballao M.Ed is currently employed as a special needs Hawaiian Studies educator at Baldwin High School. He brings a diverse educational professionalism to the council. The Department notes that James S. Ballao M.Ed. currently serves as a valued member of the Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council.

The Department greatly appreciates your consideration of James S. Ballao M.Ed. and strongly recommends his confirmation to the Maui/Lanai Island Burial Council.

**LAURA H. THIELEN**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**RUSSELL Y. TSUJI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**KEN C. KAWAHARA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 376**  
**(END)**