

TESTIMONY
GM 381

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian
Affairs

February 13, 2009

Scott G. Fisher, Ph.D. GM381

RE: State of Hawai'i Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lana'i

Aloha Chair Hee and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs. Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself to you and present my background for you to consider in relation to my nomination to the Burial Council for the Islands of Maui and Lana'i.

As a kama'aina, born and raised in Kula on the island of Maui, serving on the Burial Council since 2005 has provided me an opportunity to apply my passion for perpetuating Hawaiian history and culture in a tangible and meaningful way while serving my home community. I see serving on the Burial Council as an ideal opportunity to work with landowners to protect the 'iwi of our kupuna in a way that respects the continuity between the past and the present. As the vice-chair of the Maui/Lana'i Island Burial Council I see the crucial role the burial council plays both in protecting the iwi kupuna and articulating the reverence kanaka maoli have for the kupuna.

My primary qualification for serving on the burial council derives from the fact that I am a *keiki o ka 'aina*, and I believe that our generation has an obligation to honor our kupuna by respecting their remains. Since October of 2003 I have worked as a project manager for the Maui Coastal Land Trust, a local conservation organization. In this capacity I am in charge of habitat restoration and the protection of the many archaeological sites on our property in Waihe'e. Among the archaeological sites on our property are both historic and pre-contact burial sites. Since taking this position I have worked diligently to ensure that the human remains which have been exposed have been treated with dignity and respect.

In addition to these qualifications, I have an extensive research background into contemporary Hawaiian and Pacific Island social issues. My Master of Arts degree looked at the applicability of ho'oponopono and other Hawaiian values in the contemporary sovereignty movement. More recently, my doctoral field work has been on the island of Bougainville in Papua New Guinea where I worked with community leaders who are involved in the reconciliation process. The bulk of my academic work has explored the ways that communities can work to overcome social problems while drawing upon the cultural values which have sustained them for millennia. I see the role of the Burial Council in much the same way, and I look forward to playing a strong leadership role during the course of my service on the Burial Council.

In my view, the role of the Burial Council is to serve the public by working with landowners and the State Historic Preservation Division to ensure the protection and sanctity of Hawaiian remains. In addition, the Burial Council works to educate and advise landowners on the need to protect Hawaiian remains. More importantly, however, the Burial Council is in a unique position to work with these landowners to understand that 'iwi on their property should be seen as an asset rather than a liability. Occasionally conflicts will arise, and I believe my training as a mediator and as an educator has served, and will continue to serve, the Council well. I believe I have been an asset to the Maui and Lana'i Burial Council by conveying the logic and purpose behind the need to protect Hawaiian remains, and making a commitment to a negotiated solution.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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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

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 381 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION TO THE
ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LANAI, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, SCOTT G. FISHER**

It is with pleasure that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) recommends Senate confirmation of the appointment of Scott G. Fisher 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.

Scott G. Fisher was nominated to serve as a Landowner/Developer representative on the Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council. If confirmed, Scott G. Fisher will serve until June 30, 2013.

Scott G. Fisher is currently employed as the project manager for the Maui Land Trust/Waihee. He has an extensive background in natural resources and land management that enhances the council's diversity. He has earned a vote of confidence from his peers and serves as the vice-chairman and for some months as the interim chairman. The Department notes that Scott G. Fisher currently serves as a valued member of the Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council.

The Department greatly appreciates your consideration of Scott G. Fisher 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
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

From: pkaleikini@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2009 2:58 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM 381

Please support the re-appointment of Scott G. Fisher to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lanai, for a term to expire June 30, 2013.

Mahalo

Paulette Ka'anohi Kaleikini

MAUI/LANAI ISLANDS BURIAL COUNCIL

SENATOR CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Aloha Senator Hee,

My name is Kahu Charles Kauluwehi Maxwell Sr., and I am the Chair of the Maui/Lanai
Islands Burial Council.

I am speaking in behalf of Scott Fisher who is presently my Vice-Chair on the
Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council.

Throughout these last several years I have known Scott and have admired his knowledge
of the Hawaiian Culture and language. He has been an important asset on the Burial
Council and highly recommend his confirmation. His number is GM381.

Mahalo a nui loa.....

TESTIMONY
GM 381
(END)