

TESTIMONY
GM 273

Senator Clayton Hee

Chair, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Written statement

Aloha Senator Hee:

The following are my answers to your questions in numerical order

1. Why do you wish to be a member of the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau?

The opportunity of being a member of the KNIBC , allows me as a Kanaka Maoli to reconnect to my kupuna of the past and help me fulfill my responsibility as a member of the community of the present.

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau?

As stated in my application for the KNIBC, having lived on Kauai all my life without any in-depth knowledge of my ancestors or our history, every activity that I can participate in that is culturally based, allows me as a Kanaka Maoli to walk in the footsteps of our ancestors and thus allows my tail to grow back. i.e., Polynesian Voyaging Society, Pa Kui a Holo, Na Kali Wa'a, Mai Ka Po.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise, or knowledge that would aid in your decision-making ability as a member of the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau.

As a member of the KNIBC it would be my duty to work with other council members and make recommendations for the preservation and protection of any inadvertent discovery of Native Hawaiian burial sites.

4. What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

As a successful small business owner, past - employee of several major companies, member of a culturally based Native Hawaiian Organization, and a life-long resident of Kauai, my abilities to communicate and interact effectively as a servant to my community, has prepared me for my role as a member of the KNIBC.

5. Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau?

As was told to me by a very dear friend, "when we are ready, our ancestors, who are standing behind us, will be there to help us move forward but they cannot help us until we walk in their path." It is my hope

that by being a part of KNBIC, I will be walking in the path of my ancestors and thus rediscover the manao that was denied me, and helps make this a better place for my descendents and the Hawaiian People of Kauai.

6. Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau?

My acceptance of a Higher Power, an understanding and practice of Huna, and my compassion for my fellow man are qualities that will help me fulfill my duties as a council member of KNBIC.

On Sept. 4, 2009, I received my appointment by the Governor as a member of the KNBIC on an interim basis. On Sept. 11, 2009 I had surgery to remove 70% of my stomach due to cancer. Post surgery pathology reported that I was cancer free and required no radiation or chemotherapy. I believe that ever thing is purposeful and that things happen for a reason. I was informed that I fell in the 5% survival group for my type of cancer. This experience for me has made me more aware of my mortality and the time given to me to be the best I can be, not just for myself but for others around me and for my community.

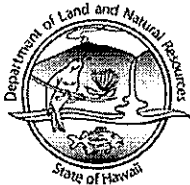
7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

At this time I do not foresee any personal conflict of interest that may arise while I am a member of KNBIC. However, should a situation arise that presents itself as a conflict of interest and as a result could affect the Hawaiian community in a negative way I will resign my position in the best interest of the Hawaiian community.

Aloha,

James Wilfred (Kaholokula) Fujita

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**

**Friday, February 19, 2010
3:15 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 273 - SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND
CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND
NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JAMES WILFRED FUJITA, FOR A TERM
TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports the gubernatorial appointment of James Wilfred Fujita to the Kaua'i Island Burial Council for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

The Island Burial Councils were established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to determine the preservation in place or relocation of previously identified native Hawaiian burial sites and to determine Hawaiian cultural and lineal descendent claims for specific burials.

State law requires that Island Burial Councils be established for Hawai'i, Maui/Lanai, Molokai, O'ahu and Kaua'i/Ni'ihau islands, and be comprised of representatives from specific geographic regions and representatives of developer/large property owners. Mr. Fujita will serve as one of the regional representative on the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burials Council. The Department notes that Mr. Fujita is currently serving as an interim burial council member on the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council.

Mr. Fujita is a self-employed business owner dba as "Kimo's Beach Stuff LLC." He is a member of good standing in his community and active in various community-based organizations. Further, Mr. Fujita brings a keen cultural understanding passed on to him by his family in the matters of the ocean and the land including care of their family burials. Mr. Fujita was highly recommended by former the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burials Council commissioner, Mr. John Kruse who served more than two terms and is himself a highly respected cultural practitioner.

Thank you for this opportunity to support Mr. Fujita's appointment to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau 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
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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