

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 425**

**GM425**

**Responses of Clisson Kunane Aipoalani**

**Statement to Address following questions:**

- (1) **When you were first appointed to the Island Burial Council, Island of Kauai and Niihau, what were your expectations and hopes as a member of the Council? Did you meet your expectations? Please explain.**

As I began my kuleana as a council member, my desire was to be open and objective to decisions that would be appropriate in the care of our iwi kupuna. I discovered that there is an inventory of iwi that is stored in a container, awaiting disposition. My expectation was to direct attention and focus on getting the iwi buried in their respective location and to finally put them to rest. I was able to volunteer and take those that belonged in my district and had them buried in my ohana's burial site at Po'ohonu in Polihale, after the process of SHPD approval. Although there were other concerns that needed attention, this was one that I focused upon.

- (2) **Now that you have served as a member of the Island Burial Council, Island of Kauai and Niihau, what accomplishments or contributions have been the most important to you?**

Aside of my previous statement regarding the iwi that is in storage, I hope my contribution as a member has been fair and just in the decisions that were made. I have learned a lot, and feel the experience I've gained will help me accomplish other goals I've set for myself in serving on this council and to meet the Department's obligations as well.

- (3) **What are your views of your role and responsibilities as a member of the Island Burial Council, Island of Kauai and Niihau?**

I view my kuleana on this council to be very important, in that, what is decided today, will affect what tomorrow's decisions will be. We need to be conscience of the legacy left by our kupuna so that our posterity will continue to preserve our culture. "Ho'i hou i ka iwi kuamo'o" – (return to the backbone) – learn from the past, embrace the present, and preserve the future.

- (4) **Give two examples of how your views have guided your decision making since being on the Council?**

**Ex: 1 - The decision to reject the burial treatment plan for the Brescia Case.** After a very lengthy process of public testimony and deliberations, I felt I was capable of rendering a decision based on all the facts as well as emotional testimonies that was presented to our Council. Although there were contradicting statements, it was when we as council members were able to come together in our thoughts to make a collective decision that has guided me in this particular application.

**Ex: 2 - Being able to be a good listener and to respect other's opinions, in my view, guides me in making the best possible decision.**

**(5) What has been the most difficult part of serving on the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau?**

**For me, it was keeping my emotions in check when making crucial decisions regarding our iwi kupuna. You have to be able to see both sides of the spectrum, to make a fair decision. Sometimes the outcome is not what you desire, but you have to respect the final decision by all members of the Council.**

**(6) What do you hope to accomplish during your next term of service on the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau?**

**I hope to focus and complete the reinterment of all the iwi kupuna that is in storage. It has been too long.**

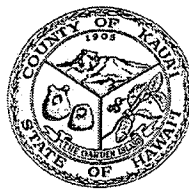
**(7) What qualities set you apart from the rest of the members of the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau?**

**I believe the compassion and respect I was taught to have for my kupuna. We are the product of what they have done. There is a Hawaiian phrase that says, "I ulu no ka lala i ke kumu, which translates, "The branches grow because of the tree." I also have the desire to continue the preservation of our heritage, culture and traditions, which sets us apart from the world.**

**(8) What would you recommend to improve the effectiveness of the Island Burial Council, Island of Kauai and Niihau?**

**Without being redundant, we need to fill critical positions in SHPD staff in order to function efficiently and improve the quality of service to the public. I'm aware of the shortfall of funding and staff, but we need to be able to meet the our needs to better serve.**

**Bernard P. Carvalho Jr.**  
Mayor



**Gary K. Heu**  
Administrative Assistant

**John Isobe**  
Executive Assistant

**COUNTY OF KAUA'I**

**TESTIMONY OF THE  
COUNTY OF KAUA'I  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010**

April 7, 2010  
2:45 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GM 425, RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE CLISSON  
KUNANE AIPOALANI**

**TO THE HONORABLE CLAYTON HEE, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE:**

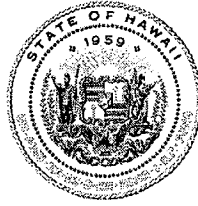
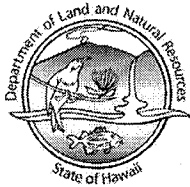
My name is Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor, providing testimony in support of Gubernatorial Nominee Clisson Kunane Aipoalani to the Island Burial Council as the representative for the islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

Mr. Aipoalani is being nominated to serve for the term ending June 30, 2014. He is well respected on Kaua'i for his involvement in the community as he is a Native Hawaiian and was a former Kaua'i County Planning Commissioner.

With his knowledge and experience, Mr. Aipoalani possess the qualities needed to serve on this Council with his understanding of the Hawaiian culture, history, customs, practices, and in particular, beliefs and practices relating to the care and protection of Native Hawaiian burial sites in the community.

Mahalo for allowing me to submit my support for Mr. Aipoalani's confirmation.

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**

**Wednesday, April 7, 2010  
2:45 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 425-  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, CLISSON KUNANE AIPOALANI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2014**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports Governor's Message 425 on the gubernatorial appointment of Clisson Kunane Aipoalani to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

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, Oahu and Kaua'i/Ni'ihau islands, and be comprised of representatives from specific geographic regions and representatives of developer/large property owners. Mr. Aipoalani, who is a federal employee and a former county planning commissioner, will serve as a regional representative for West Kaua'i. The Department notes that Mr. Aipoalani currently serves as the chairman of the Kauai Island Burial Council.

Mr. Aipoalani is highly regarded as a community leader with strong cultural and genealogical ties to the island. Mr. Aipoalani is part of the core Hawaiian families in West Kaua'i and contributes much knowledge to burials and sacred places including blessings and protocol when necessary.

The Department urges this Committee to support the appointment of Mr. Aipoalani 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  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAIHOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

# GM425 Aipoalani

Subject	Testimony for Clisson Kunane Aipolani Hearing Wed April 7th 2:45PM
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**GM** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, WTL  
**425** Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, Gubernatorial Nominee, CLISSON KUNANE  
AIPOALANI, for a term to expire 6-30-2014.

Dear Committee Members:

I would like to submit testimony in favor of consideration and confirmation. Mr. Aipoalani is currently serving as Chair of the Kauai Niihau Burial Council. In that capacity he has shown poise and confidence in handling often emotional and hostile crowds. He has also shown a compassionate and well balanced approach in working with the burial plans being sent before us. I urge you to accept his nomination and submit for confirmation. Thank you.

Keith Yap  
Vice-Chair  
Kauai Niihau Burial Council

**TESTIMONY**  
**GM 425**  
**(END)**