

**GM 894**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION  
601 KAMOKILA BLVD., RM. 555  
KAPOLEI, HI 96707

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 894  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUAI AND NIIHAU, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, NATHAN KALAMA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports the gubernatorial appointment of Nathan Kalama to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau, to expire 6-30-2016.

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. With regard to previously known burials, the councils determine whether to leave the burial in place or remove it, recognize lineal and cultural descendants and provide counsel and advice to the Department. Regional representatives must be members of the Hawaiian community and possess an understanding of Native Hawaiian culture, history and practices, especially as they relate to burials (Section 13-300-22, Hawaii Administrative Rules).

Mr. Nathan Kalama is a well-respected Kumu Hula (Hula master) on Kauai with a vast knowledge of Hawaiian traditions and culture. Mr. Kalama knows the community issues and leaders from his diverse background in business and cultural enterprises. He assists with protocol and reburials on Kauai. Whenever he is asked to kokua (help), he contributes spiritual and cultural knowledge to malama na iwi kahiko (care for the ancestral bones). Mr. Kalama served a short interim term on the Kauai-Niihau Island Burial Council and is deeply interested to continue his service therein. A Senate Confirmation will ensure that this important member's term is extended until 6-30-2016.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI  
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM  
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  
KAIIOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chair

Senator Pohai Ryan, Vice Chair

April 18, 2012

2:45 PM

Testimony in SUPPORT of Governatorial Nominee:

**Nathan Kalama-GM 894**

#### Island Burial Council, Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau

Chair Galuteria, Vice-Chair Ryan and members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs:

It is with great pride and honor that I submit my support for the confirmation of Nathan Liberato Kahikolu Kahapea Kalama to the Island Burial Council, Kaua'i and Ni'ihau.

Uncle Nathan as he is more commonly known on Kauai, posses a vast knowledge of ancestral Native Hawaiian remains and the extraordinary responsibility to care for the *iwi* of na kupuna. Through his many years of research and teachings as the founder of the acclaimed Kauai Mokihana Festival and its mission to sustain the Native Hawaiian culture, Uncle Nathan's deep passion, beliefs and guidance comes from his ancestors and family legacy.

As a member of the Island Burial Council, Uncle Nathan will be a true asset as he brings to the discussion a critical understanding of the necessity to safeguard burial ancestral sites as well as to find the most appropriate re-internment of remains to have continued care by living descendants. Furthermore, as a long standing Kumu Hula, he will ensure ancient protocol be respected and entered into any proceedings of discovered burial sites and continued preservation of the *iwi* kupuna.

Thank you for your time and consideration and please call my office if I can be of any further assistance.

Representative Derek S.K. Kawakami, 14<sup>th</sup> District  
East and North Kauai

District 14, East and North Kauai  
Vice Chair, Energy & Environmental Protection Committee  
State Capitol Building, Room 314, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Phone (808) 586-8435, Fax (808) 586-8437, Email: repkawakami@capitol.hawaii.gov

April 8, 2012

Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
Chairman Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Capital Room 224  
Honolulu, HI 95813

RE: Mr. Nathan Kalama's Nomination to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council -GM 894

Honorable Brickwood Galuteria;

*Aloha, my name is Nathan Kalama and it is my desire to serve the Native Hawaiian community here on Kaua'i in yet another way. As a cultural practitioner (kumu hula, musician, entertainer, composer, chanter, recording artist, member of Hale O Na Ali'i; Ha lau O Kapi'olani and Founder of the Malie Foundation, Malie Scholarship Fund and the Malie Awards), I find this as an opportunity and honor to serve na kupuna who have gone before us....to add my voice on their behalf.*

*I see the role of a member on the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council (KNIBC) in the following manner:*

- 1. Voice for na kupuna wa kahiko*
- 2. Mediator between community and government*
- 3. Advocate for the law.*

*Having previously served as a member of KNIBC for a brief six month period (Sept. '10-Mar. '11), I believe I bring the above fore mentioned skills to the KNIBC. In the past year, I have also provided the protocol ceremonies for the re-internment of na iwi kupuna in the last 5 cases, despite not being a member of the KNIBC. As founder of the Malie Foundation for 25 years, I have conceived, planned, coordinated and facilitated business meetings, culture events, fundraisers, concerts, volunteers and board members.*

*It is my desire that while serving as a member of the KNIBC, that my presence and participation will bring a deeper sense of quiet dignity and respect to the position and to the members that serve. There are three words that best describe what I can best offer as a member of the KNIBC MEDITATE ( a lot of prayer, traditional and modern before, during and after), MEDIATE (listen, discuss, find solutions )and ACTIVATE ( carry out or follow the plan of action.)*

At the present time I have no conflict of interest and if one arose in the future on a particular issue, I would declare it and withdraw from any participation on the issue.

I humbly ask you, the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs members and the rest of the Hawai'i Senate members for your support. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Nathan Kalama

## galuteria1 - Davis

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**From:** Kehaulani Kekua [kehaulani.kekua@kaieie.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 12, 2012 1:17 AM  
**To:** galuteria1 - Davis  
**Subject:** RE: Mr. Nathan Kalama's Nomination to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council -GM 894

April 10, 2012

Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
Chairman Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Capital Room 224  
Honolulu, HI 95813

RE: Mr. Nathan Kalama's Nomination to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council -GM 894

Aloha Kaua e Honorable Brickwood Galuteria:

My name is Kehaulani Kekua and I am the Kumu Hula of Halau Palaihiwa O Kaipuwai - a traditional hula institution established on Kaua'i in 1945 by my late grandmother and hula master, Helen Kaipuwai Kekua Waiau. I am also the founding principal of the Ka'ie'ie Foundation - a Native Hawaiian non-profit organization whose purpose is to perpetuate Hawaiian knowledge, traditional practices and art forms through cultural education opportunities. Please accept this letter as a humble petition to ask for your support and consideration to appoint and confirm Nathan Liberato Kahikolu Kahapea Kalama to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council.

For the past two decades, he has worked tirelessly as the founder and director of the Kaua'i Mokihana Festival on behalf of the Malie Foundation - a Native Hawaiian non-profit organization of which he is also a founder of. Attended by kama'aina and visitors alike, this weeklong festival has grown to become Kaua'i's most popular and favorite celebration of Hawaiian culture, culminating with three days of hula competition. Throughout the year, leading up to the September festival, the Malie Foundation hosts and presents cultural workshops highlighting the annual theme. The festival and foundation is very successful because of Nathan Kalama's creative vision and his admirable ability to bring members and leaders of the community together.

From 1997 to 1999 in my capacity as the Aloha Festivals Kaua'i Island Manager, I enlisted Nathan's participation as the Mea Oli or Court Chanter for the Aloha Festivals Royal Court. During this period, I had the opportunity to develop a close working relationship and friendship with Nathan through regular meetings, workshops and training retreats that were extended to members of the Royal Court. Amongst the training experiences that were made available, was the opportunity to learn how to research and chant your family's mele mo'oku'auhau or genealogy chant. Nathan still reflects upon how much of a positive influence and life-shifting experience that this traditional practice has had on him.

Along with other kumu hula, kupuna and cultural practitioners from throughout Kaua'i Island, we have mutually participated and supported each other's efforts in advocating for the protection and preservation of our kupuna's ancient burial sites. In 2005, we led a 24-hour vigil upon the grounds of the defunct Coco Palms Hotel to petition for the protection of iwi kupuna and the well known burial grounds of Mahunapu'uone. We returned to Wailuanuiaho'ano for another 24-hour vigil and ceremony in 2009 out of concern for the rapid movement of development in Wailua that were threatening impacts and possible desecration of ancient burial sites. Nathan has always given of his time and energy to gather people together in focus and solidarity to support and network for issues concerning iwi kupuna, Hawaiian culture and practices.

Years ago, Kahikolu (as I affectionately call him) made a commitment to malama our kupuna kahiko and the sanctity of the proper care and processes associated with the protection of iwi kupuna and moepu. He is an excellent candidate who is not only ready; but willing and waiting to fulfill his kuleana in the official capacity on the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Burial Council.

I am most honored to submit this testimony and letter of support on behalf of Nathan Liberato Kahikolu Kahapea Kalama.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

`O wau me ka ha'aha'a,

Kehaulani Kekua  
Kumu Hula, Halau Palaihiwa O Kaipuwai  
Director, Ka'ie'ie Foundation

## galuteria1 - Davis

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 8:43 AM  
**To:** HWN Testimony  
**Cc:** pomroys001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for GM894 on 4/18/2012 2:45:00 PM

Testimony for HWN 4/18/2012 2:45:00 PM GM894

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Sharon Pomroy  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [pomroys001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pomroys001@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 4/10/2012

Comments:

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** Cheryl Obatake [kuhiau@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 07, 2012 4:21 PM  
**To:** galuteria1 - Davis  
**Subject:** FW: GM 894- Mr. Nathan Kalama 's Nomination to the Kauai/Niihau Island Burial Council

Favorable support for GM 894

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**From:** [kuhiau@hotmail.com](mailto:kuhiau@hotmail.com)  
**To:** [kuhiau@hotmail.com](mailto:kuhiau@hotmail.com)  
**Subject:** GM 894- Mr. Nathan Kalama 's Nomination to the Kauai/Niihau Island Burial Council  
**Date:** Sat, 7 Apr 2012 16:13:16 -1000

**Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
Chairman Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Capitol Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 95813**

**Aloha Senator Galuteria,**

**I humbly request your favorable vote for the nomination of Mr. Nathan Kalama to serve on the Kauai/Niihau Island Burial Council.**

**Mr. Kalama has Hawaiian knowledge of proper pono procedures, spiritual awareness, and dedication. He has officiated re-internment ceremonies of na iwi o kupuna on Kauai, recently and in the past.**

**Mahalo in advance for your favorable vote.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Ululani Lovell-Obatake  
Nawiliwili, Puna, Kauai**

**Former Kauai/Niihau Island Burial Council 1992-2000  
Chairperson - 1998 to June 2000  
Nominated by Mr. Gabriel I - Nawiliwili, Puna, Kauai.**

**Cultural Monitor  
DOT/Kuhio Hwy. & Kuamo'o Rd. Section 106- 2011 and on going**

**Cultural Monitor  
DOW Dept. of Water (County of Kauai) Started April 2, 2012 and on going.**

**Community Monitor**



April 7, 2012

Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
Chairman Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Capital Room 224  
Honolulu, HI 95813

RE: Mr. Nathan Kalama's Nomination to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council -GM 894

Honorable Brickwood Galuteria:

As a lifetime non-Hawaiian resident of Hawai'i, the support of things Hawaiian has played a critical part in my existence. The last sixteen (16) years of employment with the University of Hawai'i system involved working for a program to support Hawaiian students in their pursuit of higher education. Volunteer work has also involved support of perpetuating the Hawaiian culture and community. In all of these activities, I have been very cognizant of playing a supportive (versus a directive) role.

These activities have provided me the opportunity to meet many involved and astute Hawaiians. Hence, it is with great confidence that I provide this letter of support for the nomination of Nathan Kalama to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council. As a long-time resident of Kaua'i, Nathan has provided the island and it's visitors a venue to learn more about Hawaiian culture for the past 25+ years. He has also mentored many other young people (Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian) to expand their horizon and become involved in the Kaua'i community. Nathan has a depth of understanding of his Hawaiian culture that will enhance work of the Burial Council.

With this and other letters of support in favor of approving Nathan Kalama to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council I look forward to hearing favorably to his nomination. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Aloha,

/s/ jill kouchi

c Nathan Kalama

1. Why do you wish to be a member of Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i?  
'a'ole, wish—It is my Kau I Ka hano (position of Honor) and Pili I (with respect)  
To Malama (preserve) all our Ancestors resting place (Iwi). As Kanaka Maoli I am  
Very proud to serve on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council

2. How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Island Burial  
Council  
Island of Hawai'i

Ho'olohe to (listen), to be Pono (humble), try very hard to digest in my Na'au, all the  
Important issues that are presented to the Burial Council from the Land/owner's Manual  
Pertaining to their Land on which our Iwi's are buried. This question leaves a far and  
Open space for me to determine my role and responsibilities when these Land/Owners  
Mail to the Council these Informational Manuals 2days before the meeting. These  
Manuals includes lots of maps, maps of easements,etc.,etc.,etc, Not enough time to  
Be convinced of my direct intuition. Very hard to Maka'ala.

3. Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Island  
Burial

Council, Island of Hawai'i, 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, Island of  
Hawai'i

Born & raised up in Pauoa. Graveyards were our backyards where I played, right behind  
Pauoa School. I use to read the writings of the Tombstones and was amazed to read  
About our people who came from here and far away. Many different cultures, many  
Different stories that we were told by the care-takers of the graves. Hawaiians, Chinese,  
Lots of Chinese graves. Kawaiha'o grave-site was History laid right before our eyes.  
These are my skills about learning what Death really meant to me as a youngster and  
How grateful I was to learn to respect their Iwi's. Today I can say that my expertise  
began

When I was a child seeing the hard work that was done by these devoted people who  
Took good care of the many grave-sites no matter what nationalities were buried there.  
I truly can say that I can share my knowledge of what I have learned about our graves  
To make people understand that one day they will be laid to rest and there will always  
Be someone else to Malama their Iwi's. The most beautiful part of my story, was there  
Was always "ACCESS" FREEDOM to sit and talk story with our loved ones.

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

"ACCESS" Access to our Iwi's, no time limits, no calls to, so called LAND/OWNERS  
To give us permission to walk down the trail to show our Love & Aloha to our Kupuna's  
To our Ancestor's. From Mauka to Makai, near our river-beds, under our keawe trees,  
from

April 6, 2012

Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
Chairman Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Capital Room 224  
Honolulu, HI 95813

RE: Mr. Nathan Kalama's Nomination to the Kaua'i/Ni'i'hau Island Burial Council -GM 894

Honorable Brickwood Galuteria:

Aloha, my name is Kamakaokalani Herrod and a proud resident of Kaua'i. I am currently the Executive Director for the Mālie Foundation which hosts various workshops, lectures, activities and events throughout the year, a kumu (teacher) at the Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School and kumu hula of Na Hui O Kamakaokalani.

I strongly recommend Nathan Kalama to fill a seat on the Kaua'i and Ni'i'hau Island Burial Council. I have known Nathan Kalama for 40+ years, first as my Uncle then being involved with him in different community organizations/programs which includes the same church, founders of Hui O Kalamaola (a group created by four kumu hula on Kaua'i), a mentor for hula, music and learning all aspects of the Mālie Foundation including Nathan's kuleana (responsibilities) and more recently stepping in Nathan's former position as Executive Director. Nathan Kalama holds and has shared his strong Hawaiian values with many people including myself. Nathan Kalama is the founder of the Mālie Foundation and its largest and successful program, Kaua'i Moihana Festival, for twenty-eight years. He continues to strive to fulfill the Mālie Foundation's mission in promoting, perpetuating, preserving and educating all people about our traditional and contemporary practices of the Hawaiian Culture.

I am passionate enough to say that Nathan Kalama is loyal, honest, humbled, self motivated, dependable and is very efficient and effective in everything he does. When given a task, he is sure to gather all information and complete it in a timely manner, leaving enough time for discussion and decision making.

One of the values that come to mind when thinking of Nathan Kalama is 'Ohana, Family. Even though he has no children of his own, he has many nieces and nephews that he has and continues to influence great values in taking care of each other. Nathan is connected to many community organizations, events and has even travelled throughout the world in building many life lasting relationships which created his 'ohana nui (extended family). 'Ohana plays a big part in genealogy and it is through our kupuna (elders) we learn many things such as ho'ihi (respect), ho'ihi for our family, ourselves, others and especially those that came before us and where their physical bodies rest. It is suitable for Nathan Kalama to serve on the burial council for Kaua'i and Ni'ihau to insure the values that our kupuna passed down through generations. Nathan has a special interest where the iwi will rest and he has been a part of numerous ceremonies when iwi have been discovered in land developments.

Please accept my recommendation to have Nathan Kalama be appointed to the burial council for Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. He will be fair and objective and will work towards bringing peace between the burial council and the community.

Me'ka ha'aha'a,

*K. Herrod*

Kamakaokalani Herrod

April 10, 2012

Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
Chairman Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawaii State Capital Room 224  
Honolulu, HI 95813

RE: Mr. Nathan Kalama's Nomination to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council - GM 894

Honorable Brickwood Galuteria;

My name is Kaliko Santos and I have served as a past Burial Council member of the Kauai / Niihau Islands Burial Council (KNIBC). Today, I remain engaged in historic preservation issues here on Kauai in my position as a community outreach coordinator with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

In the 1980s I knew Mr. Kalama as student body president at Kauai Community College and a *kumu hula*. In the intervening 30+ years, the relationship has matured into his now being a respected cultural resource for me and for the larger Kauai community. In recent times, both Mr. Kalama and I have participated in the same Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHO) consultation meetings involving projects here on Kauai and in cultural protocol in the re-interment of *iwi kupuna*.

In light of his wealth of cultural knowledge, experience and respect, Mr. Kalama would be an asset and benefit the KNIBC in the execution of their duties and responsibilities. I support his decision to pursue this nomination and would ask that this committee seriously consider the appointment Mr. Kalama to the Kauai / N'ihau Islands Burial Council.

*'O wau iho no me ka 'oia 'i'o,*

D. Kaliko Santos

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Kaliko Santos", written in a cursive style.

**galuteria1 - Davis**

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**From:** kahaunael002@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 10, 2012 11:22 PM  
**To:** galuteria1 - Davis  
**Cc:** kahaunael002@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** RE: Mr. Nathan Kalama's Nomination to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council - GM 894

**Importance:** High

April 10, 2012

Senator Brickwood Galuteria  
Chairman Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs Hawaii State Capital Room 224  
Honolulu, HI. 95813

RE: Mr. Nathan Kalama's Nomination to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council - GM 894

Honorable Brickwood Galuteria;

My name is Lynn Ku'uipo Kahaunaele-Ferreira and I am offering this letter of support for Mr. Nathan Kalama as a nominee to the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council. Mr. Kalama and I have worked together on various cultural and community projects throughout the past 25 years - and continue to do so. He has honed his skills in listening, observing, gathering pertinent information, planning and praying before making decisions that will have an impact on whatever project he is involved in. As a co-founder of Malie Foundation, he has, from the very beginning, always looked for positive and creative ways to uplift, support, encourage and help na keiki, na opio, na makua, na kupuna in our community. It is so wonderful that he now has an opportunity to malama situations that impact our ancestors. In closing, it is with utmost respect for the Nomination Committee, that I ask for your support for Mr. Nathan Kalama as a member of the Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council.

Sincerely Yours,

Lynn Ku'uipo Kahaunaele-Ferreira