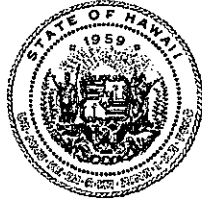
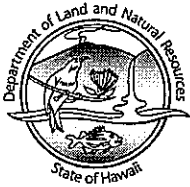


GM 895

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**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 895
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LANAI, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, KALANI HO-NIKAIDO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports the gubernatorial appointment of Ms. Kalani Ho-Nikaido to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lanai, to expire 6-30-2015.

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. Large landowner representatives must be currently be employed or associated with a developer who conducts large scale land development activities or a large property owner who owns or leases at least 100 acres of land on the respective island, and represent the interests of the development or large property owners or both (Section 13-300-22, Hawaii Administrative Rules).

Ms. Ho-Nikaido is a Land and Property Manager for Maui Land and Pineapple Company since 2005, one of the largest landowners on Maui. In this role, she is responsible for the management of the Company's assets that include 23,000 acres of land consisting of 250,000 sq. ft. of commercial space, 5,200 acres of arable land, and 11,000 acres of conservation land. In addition, she oversees the Company's conservation efforts for the Pu'u Kukui Watershed Program, a stewardship program which integrate educational, cultural, environmental, and community opportunities into management of land assets.

From an experience perspective, Ms. Ho-Nikaido in her capacity as a Land and Property Manager has worked with the Department's State Historic Preservation Division on several projects to finalize archaeological inventory surveys and preservation plans. She has previously

**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
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS**

appeared before the Maui Lana'i Islands Burial Council to present a Burial Treatment Plan that required a full understanding of its (plan) delicate nature. As a keiki o ka 'aina, most of Ms. Ho-Nikaido's life was spent growing up in Lahaina, thus giving her a personal connection with Maui and a deeply ingrained respect for the native Hawaiian culture. That said, Ms. Ho-Nikaido also understands that as Maui continues to progress and develop, there will continue to be conflicts between proposed development and native Hawaiian burial sites. It is this understanding that qualifies her to find pono or a balance. Ms. Ho-Nikaido is currently serving on the Maui/Lanai Island Burial Council on an interim appointment. Senate confirmation will ensure this important member's term is extended until 6-30-2015.

April 9, 2012

Senator Brickwood Galuteria
Chair, Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

As per your request, below please find a written statement that addresses the questions that you posed in response to my gubernatorial nomination for the Maui, Lana'i Island Burial Council.

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of Island Burial Council, Island of Maui?
As a life long resident of Maui, I feel it is important to give back to my community and the island of Maui. I feel that the role that the Burial Councils' have on each island is very significant, and I would be honored to participate in the duties and role assigned to the Maui Lana'i Islands Burial Council.

- (2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Island Burial Council, Island of Maui.
The members of the Burial Council are charged with determining the preservation or relocation of previously identified native Hawaiian burial sites including making recommendations regarding appropriate management, treatment and protection. This is not a role to be taken lightly and the utmost care and respect must be taken with each scenario brought before the Council. As part of the Council, members have the opportunity to be caretakers for those who cannot speak for themselves and to work with all parties involved to reach the best solution.

- (3) Given your understanding of the role and responsibilities of a member of the Island Burial Council, Island of Maui, 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 Maui.
I have been an employee of Maui Land & Pineapple Company since 2005; I started as a development coordinator working on all facets of the design and entitlement process for various development projects. I have worked to coordinate the analysis and research involved in producing environmental impact studies, and I am very familiar with the entitlement process that a development project undergoes. I have worked with the State Historic Preservation Division on several projects to finalize archaeological inventory surveys and preservation plans for the identified sites. I have personally presented a project and proposed preservation plan in front of a previous Burial Council and

understand the delicate nature of the issues that are brought forward for consideration.

I am the Land & Property Manager at MLP where I am entrusted with overseeing the management of approximately 23,000 acres of land that the company owns on Maui. This also includes oversight of the management team of the Pu'u Kukui Watershed Nature preserve. The skill set that I use on a daily basis helps me to balance the responsibilities entrusted to me as caretaker for this land with the needs of my employer.

- (4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?
I hope to successfully work with the community, developers, and state authorities to define a resolution that is respectful to the Native Hawaiian burial sites and the protection and preservation of such sites.
- (5) Name three qualities that best describe you and that would make you stand out. How would these qualities benefit the Island Burial Council, Island of Maui?
- 1) *Passion for Hawaiian culture.*
This quality motivates me to place a priority on Hawaiian cultural issues.
 - 2) *Leadership*
I am willing to make to make decisions and tackle the hard issues. This quality would enable me to help the Council reach decisions.
 - 3) *Visionary*
I take a long term perspective. This quality would help me make long term decisions on the Council.
- (6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Island Burial Council, Island of Maui?

I attended the year long Ka Ipu Kukui leadership training for young business leaders, and I am now on its steering and planning committee. This training instills the importance of Hawaiian cultural preservation in young business leaders. My experience with Ka Ipu Kukui will help me communicate the importance of perpetuating Hawaiian values and traditions to others.

- (7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests that could arise during your service on the Island Burial Council, Island of Maui? How would you overcome any possible conflicts of interest?

If Maui Land & Pineapple Company Inc brings a project forward for review by the Council, this would be a conflict of interest. I would promptly recuse myself from the discussion and voting, and I would allow the rest of the council to make the appropriate decision without any influence on my part.

Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 16, 2012

Kalani Ho

GM 895

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

Aloha Chair Galuteria and members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs.

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself for your consideration of my nomination to the Maui / Lana'i Islands Burial Council.

I was raised in Lahaina on the island of Maui, and I lived on the mainland while attending college. I worked for four years in New York City before relocating back to Maui ten years ago. My time away instilled in me a great appreciation for all that Maui and Hawaii has to offer.

Since August 2005, I have been employed at Maui Land & Pineapple Company, most recently as the Land and Property Manager. In this capacity I act as steward for the approximately 23,000 acres of land the company owns. I oversee the management team of the 8,600 acre Pu'u Kukui Preserve, one of the State's largest privately managed nature preserves. I also oversee the many archaeological sites within the company's land holdings. Both historic and pre-contact burial sites are included within these archaeological sites on the MLP property. During my tenure as property manager, I have worked with previous Burial Councils to draft and implement preservation plans to ensure these sites are treated with dignity and respect.

I see my role on the Burial Council as an opportunity to work with representatives for other landowners to ensure there is adequate protection and respect for Native Hawaiian burial sites. This is also an opportunity for me to apply my passion for perpetuating Hawaiian history and culture while giving back to my community.

I feel strongly that my diverse work and life experiences provide me with the skills to balance the needs of the community, land owners, and the State Historic Preservation Department. Working together we can define plans to preserve and protect Hawaiian burial sites that are dignified and respectful.

In closing I would like to thank this Committee for considering my nomination. I look forward to serving my community should you approve my nomination.