

GM 897

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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AQUATIC RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**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 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 897
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF OAHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ELTON
MAGALLANES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports the gubernatorial appointment of Elton Magallanes to the Island Burial Council, Island of Oahu, to expire 6-30-2015.

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 descendancy 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. Magallanes will represent the Waianae Moku on the Oahu Island Burial Council.

Mr. Magallanes has been a resident of Waianae since 1980. Prior to that, he lived for a brief time in the Moku of Ewa. Mr. Magallanes has served on the Island Burial Council in an interim capacity since November 2011. He has assisted with the reburial of iwi at Mauna Lahilahi, has studied protocol and chant under Kumu John Lake and works in his community to protect Native Hawaiian sites and practices. His knowledge, passion and energy will be an asset to the Oahu Island Burial Council

Elton Magallanes

Burial Council Appointment Questionnaire

- (1) Why do you wish to be a member of Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i?

My intentions in serving as a member of the O'ahu Island Burial Council, is to continue to practice my inherited kuleana handed down to me from my great grandfather, William Humehume Kaniho, to advocate and care for our *Kupuna 'Iwi*. I also wish to have an opportunity to be a bridge between the State and communities reach *pono* decisions for our *Kupuna 'Iwi*.

- (2) How do you perceive the role and responsibilities of a member of the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i?

I feel my role and responsibilities on the Burial Council will be to communicate and work with many agencies, corporations, and communities to understand the concerns. Also, to thoroughly review development projects and assist in making recommendations for the State Historic Preservation Department. I know that I will have to make many hard decisions, but I feel I am up for the challenges.

- (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.

As the great grandson of William Humehume Kaniho, I was inherited the family responsibility of caring for and monitoring numerous family burials and family relics on the islands of Hawai'i, Maui, Kaua'i and O'ahu.

Also, I have studied for six years in traditional and contemporary Hawaiian chant (*'oli*) and various forms and levels of ceremonial protocols under the guidance of the late Kumu John Keola Lake.

In addition, since 1999 to present, I practice and study chant, ceremonial protocol, and values under *'Olohe Ke`eaumoku Kapu*.

In 2008, I assisted Koa Mana and `Aha Kukaniloko (Wai`anae Moku Lineal Descendants) in the protection, recovery and repatriation of the Kupuna `Iwi that were unearthed at Mauna Lahilahi. I continue to learn more about the traditional practices of Wai`anae from Koa Mana and `Aha Kukaniloko `ohana.

On occasions, I have assisted Na Koa Palehua with burial protocols and restoration efforts in Kalaeloa.

Finally, from 2007 to 2010, I volunteered to assist Hawaii National Park, in the restoration of Pu`ukohola Heiau after the earthquake of `06. National Parks Archeologists were utilized to record our progress. I am truly honored that I was a part of the restoration efforts. I learned so much from the kupuna and great leaders we worked with.

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

During my term of service on the council I hope to advocate and assist in the process for the State Historic Preservation Department and communities to reach the best decisions to protect and preserve our kupuna `iwi.

(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 Hawai`i?

The qualities that would best describe me would be analytical, dedication to kuleana, and courageous to take on challenges. I feel these three qualities can benefit the O`ahu Island Burial Council in finding pono solutions when addressing communities concerns.

(6) Name one previous experience that would make you stand out. How would this benefit the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai`i?

Recently I was nominated by the Council to be a part of the Section 106 review committee on the O`ahu Island Burial Council. I feel my participation on this committee is important that I thoroughly review development projects and provide updated reports to the Island Burial

Council so we can provide proper recommendations for the State Historic Preservation Department.

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

I do not foresee any future conflicts of interests, other than my very busy schedule as an educator at ALU LIKE Inc. and Mua O Kanehunamoku (Wai`anae adolescent male ha`a group). In order for me to overcome this obstacle will be to get better at time management.

Mahalo Piha,

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