

GM513

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Molokai, Gubernatorial Nominee, FRANCES COBB-ADAMS, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: Island Burial Council, Island of Molokai

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

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

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

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Friday, March 7, 2014
2:45PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 513
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MOLOKA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
FRANCES COBB-ADAMS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 513, nominating Ms. Frances Cobb-Adams to the Island Burial Council, Island of Moloka'i, to expire June 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.

Ms. Cobb-Adams has genealogical ties to Moloka'i and is a resident of Kalua'aha. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Studies and is currently employed as the Moloka'i Resource Center Manager for the Kamehameha Schools. Her past employment includes working as a Hawaiian language teacher for the Maui College-Moloka'i Education Center and the Moloka'i Pathways/Hoomau Site Coordinator for the Nā Pua No'eau-Center for Gifted and Talented Native Hawaiian Children. In addition, her daily life is driven by Hawaiian values, beliefs, and practices.

Ms. Cobb-Adams previously served on the Moloka'i Island Burial Council and has expressed great interest in continuing that kuleana. Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Cobb-Adams' valuable knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Island Burial Council until June 30, 2015.



GM513

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MOLOKA‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, FRANCES COBB-ADAMS, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 7, 2013

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM513, which would confirm Frances “Makanani” Cobb-Adams as the East Moloka‘i regional representative to the Moloka‘i Island Burial Council.

Ms. Cobb-Adams is a particularly appropriate selection for the Moloka‘i Island Burial Council, and we are confident that she will reflect the cultural beliefs and traditions associated with burial practices on Moloka‘i in her capacity as a member of the council. Ms. Cobb-Adams’ family has genealogical ties throughout Moloka‘i, and she currently resides in Kalua‘aha. She also serves as the Moloka‘i Resource Center manager for Kamehameha Schools. Ms. Cobb-Adams holds a deep appreciation for her Hawaiian heritage as her culture is integrated into her daily life and woven into her identity. She employs traditional methods and values in food gathering and preparation, lei making, ‘ōlelo, and especially honoring and caring for her kūpuna and akua. Ms. Cobb-Adams received her bachelor’s degree in Hawaiian studies with an emphasis on natural environment from the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and has formerly served as an instructor in Hawaiian Studies and language at the University of Hawai‘i Moloka‘i Community College and as a Program Coordinator with Nā Pua No‘eau. She has also previously served as a Moloka‘i Island Burial Council member and is ready to take up this kuleana again.

The Moloka‘i Island Burial Council, like several other island burial councils, has historically faced significant challenges meeting composition and quorum requirements and, as a result, has been unable to convene for several years. Accordingly, during the 2013 legislative session, OHA partnered with the Governor’s Office, the State Attorney General, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources’ State Historic Preservation Division to pass legislation substantially reducing the composition and quorum requirements for the island burial councils to meet. After the passage of Act 276 (Session Laws 2013), OHA continued to collaborate with the Governor’s Office to expeditiously solicit and recommend nominees to fill longstanding vacancies and allow the burial councils to do business once again. With the more attainable composition and quorum requirements established by Act 276 and with Ms. Cobb-Adams’ confirmation (as well as those of the two other anticipated Moloka‘i Island Burial Council appointees), the

Moloka'i Island Burial Council may finally resume their work and fulfill their important kuleana.

For these reasons, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM513 to confirm Ms. Cobb-Adams to the Moloka'i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.