

GM516

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lanai, Gubernatorial Nominee, JOHANNA KAMAUNU, for a term to expire 6-30-2017.

Report Title: Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lanai

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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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 516
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA'I, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, JOHANNA KAMAUNU, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 516, nominating Ms. Johanna Kamaunu to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lāna'i, to expire June 30, 2017.

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. Kamaunu is a current resident of Waihe'e, Maui and has taught in the Hawaiian Studies Kupuna program for 14 years. She brings with her 30 years of genealogy and geographical history research experience referencing the ahupua'a of Waikapū, Wailuku, Wai'ehu and Waihe'e. In addition, she has attended and testified at the Maui-Lāna'i Islands Burial Council during the past seven years.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Kamaunu's valuable knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Island Burial Council until June 30, 2017.



GM516

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JOHANNA KAMAUNU, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 7, 2013

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM516, which would confirm Johanna Kamaunu as the Wailuku regional representative to the Maui and Lāna‘i Island Burial Council.

Ms. Kamaunu’s commitment to burial protection on her island will greatly benefit the Maui & Lāna‘i Island Burial Council. Ms. Kamaunu traces long genealogical roots to ‘Īao Valley, Waiehu, and Waihe‘e Valley. She has trained under many prominent kumu and has been active in iwi preservation controversies on her island, attending and testifying at burial council meetings for seven years. Ms. Kamaunu strongly values descendant wishes and traditional protocols but also seeks balance and peaceful solutions to conflicting needs. She feels a great sense of kuleana to pass her knowledge forward to the next generation as she has been an active teacher in the Department of Education Hawaiian Studies Kūpuna Program for 14 years.

The Maui and Lāna‘i Island Burial Council, like several other island burial councils, has recently faced significant challenge meeting composition and quorum requirements as it lost membership sufficient to constitute a quorum in April 2013. 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 vacancies and allow the burial councils to do business once again. With the more attainable composition and quorum requirements established by Act 276 and Ms. Kamaunu’s confirmation (as well as those of the three other anticipated Maui and Lāna‘i Island Burial Council appointees), the Maui and Lāna‘i Island Burial Council may finally resume their work and fulfill their important kuleana.

For these reasons, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM516 to advise and consent the nomination of Ms. Kamaunu to the Maui and Lāna‘i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**Testimony of Leimana DaMate
Aha Moku Advisory Committee**

Before the Senate Committee on
Hawaiian Affairs

Friday, March 7, 2014
2:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In Support of
Governor Message 516**

Johanna Kamaunu

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Hee and Members of the Senate Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

On behalf of the Aha Moku Advisory Committee, we are deeply honored for the opportunity to strongly support Governor Abercrombie's nomination of Johanna Kamaunu to the Island Burial Council for the Islands of Maui and Lana'i.

Ms. Kamaunu has long been an advocate for the Kanaka Maoli and is very well respected on Maui as a cultural practitioner who is knowledgeable and compassionate in the arena of kupuna iwi.

We are very proud and happy that Governor Abercrombie nominated her for this position and urge this committee to support his nomination through passage of GM 516.

Respectfully yours,

Leimana DaMate, Executive Director
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
Ph: 808-587-1498