

GM518

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALENA BLAKEMORE, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Report Title: Island Burial Council, Island of Hawaii

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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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
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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 518
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
KALENA BLAKEMORE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2015**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 518, nominating Ms. Kalena Blakemore to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'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. Blakemore is a resident of the island of Hawai'i. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology and has nine years of experience working at the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. While there, Ms. Blakemore was a team member of the Cultural Resource Management Division, responsible for assisting and completing field surveys, drafting maps, site reports, write-ups, conducting 106, Section 110 inventory and monitoring surveys. She also served as an intern with the State Historic Preservation Division in the spring of 2002.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms Blakemore's valuable knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Island Burial Council until June 30, 2015.



GM518

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KALENA BLAKEMORE, 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** GM518, which would confirm Kalena Blakemore as a Puna regional representative to the Hawai'i Island Burial Council.

Ms. Blakemore's dedication to cultural and natural resource preservation, as well as her archaeological experience, makes her an appropriate selection as a representative on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council. Ms. Blakemore currently resides in Volcano and has genealogical ties to Puna ('Ola'a), Hilo (Keaukaha), and Kohala (Kokoiki). She has extensive experience in the field of historic preservation, serving for many years as an archaeologist in cultural resources management for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. During her time at the park, she identified inadvertently discovered burials, implemented protective protocols, inventoried caves, monitored compliance with federal National Historic Preservation Act Sections 106 and 110, and performed high altitude and coastal back country archaeological surveys. Ms. Blakemore received a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Hawai'i, Hilo and interned with the Department of Land and Natural Resources' State Historic Preservation Division. During her time there, she gained a firm foundation in cultural practices and the necessity for balance with the sometimes-tumultuous issues taken up by the burial councils. Additionally, Ms. Blakemore continues her cultural ties through her participation in native plant restoration on Mauna Loa, Mauna Kea, and Kaho'olawe, attendance at 'Imi Pono No Ka 'Aina Teacher Workshops, study of hula under Kumu Kiwala'o Taylor, and participation as a founding board member of the Volcano School of Arts & Sciences Public Charter School.

For these reasons, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM518 to confirm Ms. Blakemore to the Hawai'i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

TESTIMONY
OF
KALENA K. BLAKEMORE
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
ON
MARCH 7, 2014

GM518

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawaii, Gubernatorial Nominee, KALENA BLAKEMORE, for a term to expire 6-30-2015.

Chair Maile S.L. Shimabukuro and members of the Committee, thank you for this opportunity to present my testimony before you today.

I would like to thank Governor Neil Abercrombie for my nomination. I consider this appointment a privilege and honor to serve on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council as a representative for the district of Puna.

I would also like to express a warm mahalo to everyone who submitted letters of support on my behalf.

I am a Native Hawaiian, born on 'Oahu, raised in California and have spent the last 15 years raising my family in Volcano, on Hawai'i Island. Since my return to Hawai'i, I have had the opportunity to be inspired by community members and educated by professionals in the field of anthropology and cultural resource management. There are two people in particular I would like to thank for their inspiration and encouragement

regarding this appointment. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Peter Mills, professor of anthropology at the University of Hawai'i, Hilo. His passion and enthusiasm in archeology conveyed to me and other students the importance of cultural resource management. We were exposed to the multi-faceted aspects of cultural resource management and the challenges that come with responsible development and preservation. The second friend and colleague I would like to thank is Sean Naleimaile, State Historic Preservation Division, Hawai'i Island archeologist. He is an excellent leader and role model in our Hawaiian community. He has given me guidance and encouragement to pursue this position expressing to me that we all have skills and talents that are of valuable contribution.

Commented [RS1]: Okina?

I have ten years of experience working as an archeologist in cultural resources management at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. This occupation mandates we follow state and federal protocols if an inadvertent burial is discovered during reconnaissance surveys. I have working knowledge of these governing rules and the sensitivity surrounding iwi kupuna (the bones of my ancestors). Several generations of my grandparents were born and raised on Hawai'i Island. I feel compelled by my Hawaiian heritage to serve and participate in the process of caring for our unique burials here in Hawai'i.

Commented [RS2]: okina

Commented [RS3]: okina

Commented [RS4]: okina

My vision for the Hawai'i Island Burial Council is to gain knowledge and deepen my understanding of Hawaiian culture and support the mission of the Council. In addition, it is my desire we have the ability to maintain a quorum and honor the monthly meetings that need to be held in order to review projects, involve 'ohana and resolve appropriate burial treatment plans. It is my hope to encourage and facilitate productive

collaborative meetings with all partners concerning burial treatment plans. My vision is to maintain cultural sensitivity and endeavor to treat all with respect, compassion and professionalism.

The State Historic Preservation Division has been wrought with challenges for several years and it is my hope to contribute and serve in a capacity that will help facilitate the mission and goals of this division while allowing me to express my personal desire and kuleana in caring for our kupuna.

In closing, I would like to thank the **Committee** for the dedicated work they accomplish for the State of Hawaii and for giving me the opportunity to present my testimony. Mahalo for considering my nomination for this **seat** and mahalo nui to those who submitted testimony on my behalf.

At this time, I am pleased to answer any questions the **Committee** may have.

Commented [RS5]: does this need to be caps?

Commented [RS6]: m,aybe combine this into one sentence

Commented [RS7]: does this need to be caps?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: lilis@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM518 on Mar 7, 2014 14:45PM*
Date: Saturday, March 01, 2014 12:06:29 AM

GM518

Submitted on: 3/1/2014

Testimony for HWN on Mar 7, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lili shan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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MaryAnne Maigret
P.O. Box 1654
Kealahou, Hawaii 96750

March 5, 2014

Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Hearing Notice, March 7, 2014, 2:45 p.m.

Ms. Kalena Blakemore's nomination to the Hawaii Island Burial Council (HIBC)

Honorable Senator Shimabukuro:

I strongly support Kalena Blakemore's nomination to the Hawaii Island Burial Council.

I am an archeologist with over eleven years of experience in government service, seven with the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, and over four years with the National Park Service.

I had the pleasure to work professionally with the Hawaii Island Burial Council as the Hawaii Island Assistant Archeologist, State Historic Preservation Division and worked closely with HIBC members from each Hawaii island district. I am therefore highly qualified to evaluate, from an historic preservation specialist's point of view, Ms. Blakemore's readiness and suitability for the position.

Kalena has a blend of experience and knowledge that is unique and critically important to bring into the HIBC. She is a professional archeologist who was educated in Hawaii and is of native Hawaiian descent. She is well prepared to evaluate the archeological reports and plans on which the council bases a portion of their decisions and recommendations. My predecessor at SHPD, Marc Smith, was her mentor and she interned in the SHPD office and accompanied Marc on site visits concerning Hawaiian burials.

I strongly support her appointment to the Hawaii Island Burial Council.

Sincerely,

MaryAnne Maigret

25 February 2014

Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Honorable Chair Shimabukuro:

As a professor of anthropology at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo for the last 16 years, and former President of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology, and former member of the Hawaii Historic Places Review Board, I am delighted to hear that Kalena Blakemore has been nominated for a post on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council. Kalena Blakemore received her B.A. in anthropology from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in 2002 and has spent over a decade working as a cultural resource specialist at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Kalena has been active in Hawaiian cultural practice and also has substantial experience in Federal and State cultural resource laws and regulations, including 6E HRS and HAR 300 "Rules of Practice and Procedure Relating to Burial Sites and Human Remains."

As you know, service on the Burial Council comes without compensation beyond travel expenses, and the challenging responsibilities burial council members face (both emotional and in terms of time investments) require a high level of personal commitment to the mission of the Council.

I have known Ms. Blakemore for over 15 years as a student, friend, and eventually as a colleague in heritage management. Without reservation, I can attest to her deep sense of kuleana in respect to Hawaiian cultural values and appropriate treatment of ancestral remains. I know she would bring to the Council a strong desire to work towards culturally appropriate solutions in the development of burial treatment plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter R. Mills". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter R. Mills, Ph.D.

Professor of Anthropology, UH Hilo

February 26, 2014

Senator Maile Shimabukuro
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
Senate District 21
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 222
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Kalena Blakemore's Gubernatorial Nominee to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i

Honorable Maile Shimabukuro:

I am writing to enthusiastically support Kalena Blakemore as a member of the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i, representing the Puna District of which she resides. I have had the pleasure of knowing Kalena for the last fifteen years. We both simultaneously attended UH Hilo in the Anthropology Department where I first met her. The education we pursued focused on archeology, Hawaiian culture, and cultural resource management. She was an excellent student and passionate about her studies. For the last ten years we have been colleagues and co-workers for the Cultural Resource Management Division of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Our job has required us to work closely together on many tasks and duties, all in the efforts to record, protect, manage, preserve, and educate others about Hawaiian archeology and historic preservation. Our work is multi-faceted and had included responding to many inadvertent burial discoveries in efforts to ensure their protection. Kalena is very knowledgeable and passionate about Hawaiian archeology and culture. With her education and work experience, she will be a valuable contributing member and an asset to the Burial Council.

Kalena is dedicated hard worker and very reliable. She is a pleasure to work with and always does a good job on any task she takes on. She is a well-respected member of the community and I strongly support her to become a member of the Burial Council.

Sincerely,

Summer Roper