

# GM526

Measure Title: Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Oahu, Gubernatorial Nominee, THOMAS SHIRAI, JR., for a term to expire 6-30-2016

Report Title: Island Burial Council, Island of Oahu



**GM526**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O‘AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, THOMAS SHIRAI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 7, 2013

2:45 p.m.

Room 224

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM526, which would confirm Thomas Shirai as the Waialua regional representative to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council.

Mr. Shirai’s dedication to iwi preservation will make him a great candidate for the kūpuna of his Waialua community as a representative on the O‘ahu Island Burial Council. Mr. Shirai has long been a staunch advocate for the protection of iwi kūpuna. He has gained expertise in iwi treatment, burial practices, and state and federal historic preservation procedures while he formerly served on the O‘ahu Island Burial Council from 2000 to 2004 and the Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Council from 2002 to 2003. Mr. Shirai has long ties to several moku on O‘ahu, having been recognized as a lineal descendant in Kawaihapai and Pa‘ala‘a Ahupua‘a and as a cultural descendant in Kamananui, Kawailoa, and Waikīkī Ahupua‘a.

Mr. Shirai has long demonstrated his deep desire to serve his greater community while remaining true to the preservation of his cultural traditions. He currently serves as a member of the North Shore Neighborhood Board, Waialua Community Association, and Mokulē‘ia Community Association. He has extensive cultural knowledge, having served as a cultural advisor to the Ka‘ena Point Advisory Group, Mokulē‘ia Community Association and several branches of the U.S. military. Mr. Shirai has also been featured in SHPD’s short film, *Restoring a Sanctuary—Ka‘ena Natural Area reserve Predator Proof Fence Project*. Finally, he has demonstrated his dedication to caring for iwi by assisting with cemetery clean-ups and maintenance at Pu‘uiki and Puea.

For these reasons, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM526 to confirm Mr. Shirai to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



Hawai'i State Legislature  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs  
Friday, March 7, 2014, CR # 224, 2:45 p.m.

**Re: GM 526 Thomas Shirai, Jr. for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu**

Aloha Honorable Chair Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Clayton Hee and members,

I write in strong support of the favorable consideration and confirmation of gubernatorial nominee, Thomas Shirai Jr. to the O'ahu Island Burial Council (OIBC). Mr. Shirai is a humble, intelligent and well-respected leader in the Hawaiian and larger community. Being raised by his kūpuna, he is grounded in his identity and his 'āina, moku o Waialua.

Regarding the kuleana of caring for iwi kūpuna, Mr. Shirai has long experience of mālama nā iwi kūpuna having exercised this responsibility on behalf of his 'ohana and the larger community for many years. As a former OIBC and Neighborhood Board member, Mr. Shirai has demonstrated his care and commitment in many ways over the years giving generously of his time and expertise caring for the people of his moku, past and present.

Mr. Shirai will honor the kuleana of mālama na iwi and will do what is right in the many difficult situations that come before the OIBC. He brings a balanced, experienced perspective that will help to seek and find consensus in the important deliberation and decision-making process.

I strongly urge your favorable consideration of his appointment to the OIBC.

Mahalo nui,

Lani Ma'a Lapilio  
President, Aukahi  
Hawai'i Advisor, National Trust for Historic Preservation  
Director, Hawai'i Council for the Humanities  
Director, Hawai'i Heritage Center

**Thomas T Shirai Jr**  
**P O Box 601**  
**Waialua, HI 96791**  
**Email: [Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Kawaihapai@hawaii.rr.com)**

**March 3, 2014**

**Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs**  
**Senator Malie Shimabukuro, Chair**  
**Senator Clayton Hee, Vice Chair**

**Notice of Hearing**  
**Friday, March 7, 2014**  
**2:45PM**  
**Conference Room 224**  
**State Capitol**  
**415 South Beretania Street**

**RE: Testimony Supporting GM 526 Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of Oahu, Gubernatorial Nominee, THOMAS SHIRAI, JR for a term to expire 6-30-2016.**

**Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Hee and Committee Members,**  
**My name is Thomas T Shirai Jr and support GM 625 as a gubernatorial nominee to serve on the Oahu Island Burial Council representing Waialua Moku as its regional representative. I've served on the Oahu Island Burial Council and would be honored to continue my kuleana regarding protection of Iwi Kupuna and representing my district. I've sent some information to each member about my background which shows that I am a descendant of an extremely deep rooted Ohana and active community member of Waialua Moku where I continue to reside with my Wife at our home in Mokule'ia where I was raised extensively with especially my Grandparents.**

**I'm active in cultural and community affairs where I'm currently serving on the North Shore Neighborhood Board 27 representing Sub-District 1 which is Mokule'ia to Ka'ena Point. I'm as the cultural advisor of the Mokule'ia Community Association. I've served on some cultural entities such as the Ka'ena Point Advisory Group and Office of Hawaiian Affairs Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Council along with being a past member of the Oahu Island Burial Council as previously mentioned.**

**My cultural knowledge was taught first hand by my Grandfather David Peahi Keao Jr., whose elders were documented cultural informants of Waialua featured in Bishop Museum Publications in the 1930's. Prior to World War II, our family once had a large estate throughout Waialua Moku with the main emphasis along the Northwest Coastline encompassing the Ahupua'a of Kamananui, Mokule'ia, Kekahi, Auku'u, Kawaihapai, Kealia and Ka'ena. The parcels within these ahupua'a are not random but contain subsistence resources such as taro patches and known fishing grounds. The main parcel of**

**our land holdings is at our family's holdings is at the Ahupua'a of Kawaihapai where Dillingham Airfield is situated. My Great-Great Grandfather Kaaemoku Kakulu was the last Konohiki of Kawaihapai and it is thru him passed to his Grandson David Peahi Keao Jr., continuing from my Grandfather to me.**

**I'm familiar with both the State of Hawaii (Chapter 6E) and Federal (NAGPRA-Chapter 106) laws and process thru formal seminars and self taught. I've participated numerous times in these process leading to reinterment of Iwi Kupuna in Waialua Moku and other areas such as Waikiki. Some have included military installations of the U.S. Army. However, my origin started in 1998 when I raised vandalism occurring at Puuiki Cemetery in Waialua to the North Shore Neighborhood Board which I was part of coordinating clean up days with community members and the U.S. Army. Thru this experience, I've learned the legislative process and being the proponent of ACT 198 (Relating to Cemetery Vandalism) in 2002 which was introduced by Representative Michael Magaoay.**

**My Grandfather instilled me with being the custodian of our legacy which is Malama Iwi Kupuna and Waialua Moku. This is a lifetime kuleana weather regardless of term limits or not. I'm honored to continue my tenure serving as Waialua Moku Regional Representative on the Oahu Island Burial Council as stated in GM 526. Mahalo nui loa.**

**Thomas T Shirai Jr  
Mokule'ia, Waialua**

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HWNTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pahinuik001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pahinuik001@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM526 on Mar 7, 2014 14:45PM  
**Date:** Sunday, March 02, 2014 1:29:41 PM

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**GM526**

Submitted on: 3/2/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kathleen M Pahinui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senator Shimabukuro and Senator Hee - I am writing to support the appointment of Thomas Shirai, Jr to the Oahu Burial Council. Thomas has extensive knowledge of the North Shore area and we need someone on the Council who can represent our interests especially as there are a number of possible developments in play. In addition, he will fairly be able to review and advise on all burial issues on the island of Oahu. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Kathleen M Pahinui Resident, Waialua

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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**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [HWNTestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Ring@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Ring@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for GM526 on Mar 7, 2014 14:45PM  
**Date:** Thursday, February 27, 2014 8:23:53 AM

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**GM526**

Submitted on: 2/27/2014

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stewart Ring	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As President of the Mokule'ia Community Association (MCA), I strongly support the nomination of Thomas Shirai to serve as the Waialua Moku representative on the Oahu Burial Council. Thomas Shirai has, for many years, been the MCA's Cultural Advisor and, as such, has done a superb job explaining, protecting and improving the preservation of Hawaiian values. Moreover, he has also done much to preserve those values as one of two Mokule'ia Representatives on North Shore Neighborhood Board No. 27.

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