

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Monday, March 24, 2014  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 593  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAII, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, T.  
KEIKIALOHA KEKIPI, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 593, nominating Mr. T. Keikialoha Kekipi to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'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.

Mr. Kekipi is a resident of Puna and is familiar with its families, practices, and protocols. He currently serves as the Executive Director of Ho'oulu Lahui, an educational 501c3 organization whose mission and goals are to perpetuate Hawaiian cultural practices and beliefs. Mr. Kekipi is also the President of the Kua O Ka La New Century Public Charter School Board in Puna. He is a member of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement and the Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development.

Mr. Kekipi previously served on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council from 1994-2002. Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Kekipi's valuable knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Island Burial Council until June 30, 2017.

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

**JESSE K. SOUKI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
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ENGINEERING  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS