

GM 778

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
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

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

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Monday, April 18, 2016  
1:15 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 778  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LANAI, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, EVALINA WATANABE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 778, nominating Ms. Evalina Watanabe to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lanai expiring June 30, 2017.**

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. With regard to previously known burials, the Burial 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. Watanabe was born and raised on Lanai. She is seeking to represent that community on the Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council. While she has lived on the island of Maui for the last 40 years, she nevertheless maintains a relationship to her home island of Lanai and is committed to, as she says, "looking out" for her childhood community. Her past work experiences include working for the Queen Liliuokalani Children's Center and Castle and Cooke. Her past networking experiences include the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha Schools, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Alu Like, and the Department of Education Kupuna Program. Ms. Watanabe served as an interim appointee to the Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council and has earned the respect from her fellow members.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Watanabe's knowledge, experiences and perspective informs the deliberations of the Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council until June 20, 2017.



**GM778**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL,  
ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA'Ī, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, EVALINA WATANABE, FOR A  
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 18, 2016

1:19 p.m.

Room 423

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM778, which confirms OHA nominee Evalina “Nani” Watanabe as the Lāna’i regional representative on the Maui and Lāna’i Island Burial Council.

Ms. Watanabe currently lives on Maui, but has genealogical ties and a life-long connection to Lāna’i, where she was born and raised. Ms. Watanabe learned much of Lāna’i’s cultural customs and traditions in her youth, from being raised by her Tūtū Daniel Kaopuiki, Sr., while he was a cultural specialist for Lāna’i Company. She continued to develop and apply her cultural expertise through her work with the Queen Lili’uokalani Children’s Center on Lāna’i, developing cultural programs for five years, and as a consultant on historic preservation projects and cultural surveys with Castle and Cooke Resorts and Hal Hammett. Ms. Watanabe has also visited many sacred places on Lāna’i through her membership in Hui Mālama Pono o Lāna’i and Lāna’i Archaeological Committee, and has helped reinter iwi from Lāna’i Hale. Additionally, Ms. Watanabe has served on the Maui County Cultural Resource Commission for five years, and has also served as a member of OHA’s Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Council, where she developed an appreciation for the complex challenges of development and historic preservation from Lāna’i kūpuna. Ms. Watanabe continues to maintain a strong cultural connection to Lāna’i through the kuleana land her family continues to own, and by remaining active in the community. OHA believes that Ms. Watanabe’s lifetime of experience learning, preserving, and perpetuating the cultural heritage of Lāna’i will be of great value to the Lāna’i Island Burial Council, should her nomination be confirmed.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM778 to confirm Ms. Watanabe Maui and Lāna’i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.