

GM 841

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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 841
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LANAI, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, SOLOMON CHURCH FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 841, nominating Mr. Solomon Church 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.

Mr. Church is a proud life-time resident of Hana and is seeking to represent that community. It always has been a challenge to find a representative of that community for the Maui Lanai Islands Burial Council. He maintains the lifestyle of that community by living off the land and ocean. While he may not have the experience working with the statutes and laws guiding the Island Burial Councils, he nevertheless remains committed to the kuleana of protecting the burials sites of his ancestors. He currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Hana Community Association.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Church's knowledge, experiences and perspective informs the deliberations of the Maui Lanai Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2017.

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

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



GM841

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL,
ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SOLOMON CHURCH, 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** GM841, which confirms OHA nominee Solomon Church as the Hāna regional representative on the Maui and Lāna'i Island Burial Council.

Mr. Church's deep commitment and strong ties to the East Maui region make him an excellent candidate to represent the kūpuna of that 'āina. Mr. Church was born and raised in Hāna, and traces his genealogy back many generations throughout East Maui to Hāna, Kaupō, Waihe'e, and Ke'anae, where most of his 'ohana still resides. He views the entire East Maui community as a family, and maintains that that is how they treat each other and deal with the various issues they may face. Spending most of his days on his 'ohana's kalo farms, Mr. Church feeds his family from the same lands and reefs that the families of East Maui have shared for many generations. As these lands also hold the iwi of their ancestors, these families work together to protect them.

A budding leader and current member of the Hāna Community Association, Mr. Church has trained under the kūpuna in his community who hold the 'ike of the burials of the various 'ohana, and who want to pass this kuleana to the next generation. He seeks to continue serving as a vessel for this sacred wisdom. As a nominee for the Hāna regional representative seat on the Maui and Lāna'i Island Burial Council, Mr. Church recognizes his rural community's uniquely strong connections to their historic sites and burials, and, if confirmed, will work to ensure proper treatment of iwi kūpuna, to perpetuate East Maui's connection to its ancestors, culture, and heritage.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM841, to confirm Mr. Church to the Maui and Lāna'i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.