

GM 878

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**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**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 878
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUAI AND NIIHAU, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, RICHARD NESMITH FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 878, nominating Mr. Richard Nesmith to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau 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. Nesmith has a Ph.D. in applied linguistics from the School of Maori and Pacific Development, University of Waikato, New Zealand. He also holds a Master of Arts in Pacific Islands Studies from the University of Hawaii at Manoa and a Bachelor's in Hawaiian Studies. He is currently self-employed (co-founder of organization) working for Na Hoku Welo, LLC., a company that provides consulting services to businesses, community organizations, schools, and government entities regarding the implementation, integration, utilization, and preservation of Hawaiian culture and language in their services, curricula, practices, and products. He has over 20 years of experiencing teaching Hawaiian language, literature, and culture. He is fluent in Hawaiian, English, Tahitian, French, and Marquesan.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Nesmith's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Island Burial Council until June 30, 2017.



GM878

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL,
ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RICHARD NESMITH, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2017**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 18, 2016

1:19 p.m.

Room 423

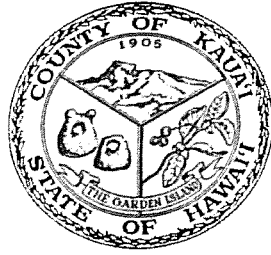
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM878, which confirms OHA nominee Richard "Keao" Nesmith as the Waimea/Nāpali regional representative to the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Island Burial Council.

Born in Waimea and raised in Kekaha, Mr. Nesmith also has 'ohana ties in Anahola and kūpuna in Halelea and Nāpali. Mr. Nesmith was raised with strong Hawaiian traditions, from an early age helping his 'ohana preserve heiau and farm using traditional agricultural methods. His parents further instilled in him a value for preserving historical sites and artifacts, through their frequent participation in archaeological surveys and excavations throughout Kaua'i. Later in life, Mr. Nesmith studied iwi preservation practices with archaeologists, kūpuna, and cultural experts from Kaua'i and elsewhere, and has been personally involved in the discovery, study, curation, and reinterment of iwi kūpuna. Currently, Mr. Nesmith serves as the president of Ka Pua Hipalo o Po'oku, a nonprofit organization focused on the preservation and restoration of the Po'oku Heiau complex in Halele'a. He is also a member of Nāpali Coast 'Ohana, which preserves and restores cultural sites of Nualolo Kai and other areas of Nāpali, and Hui Mālama o Kāneiolouma, which maintains and restores the Kāneiolouma Heiau complex in Po'ipū.

Mr. Nesmith, therefore, has a lifetime of experience studying, maintaining, and restoring traditional and cultural sites, experience that would make him an invaluable member of the Council, should he be confirmed.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM878, to confirm Mr. Nesmith to the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



George K. Costa
Director

Nadine K. Nakamura
Managing Director

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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April 15, 2016

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro
Chair, Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
The Senate
The State Capitol

Aloha Senator Shimabukuro:

As Director of the Office of Economic Development for the County of Kauai, I have always been supportive of the advancement of our residents, especially those who are “Keiki ‘O Ka ‘Aina”, Children of this Land. It is my understanding that one of Kaua‘i’s own, Keao NeSmith, is seeking to serve on the Island Burial Council.

I have known Keao for several years and he is currently very involved with assisting our County Administration Team on various culturally-significant projects that will benefit the residents and visitors to Kaua‘i. Most notably, Keao has been instrumental in the Kaua‘i Nui Kuapapa program with his knowledge of the Hawaiian culture, language, Kaua‘i place names, moku and ahupua‘a borders and traditional protocol. Keao also serves as a volunteer member of the County’s Planning Department Community Advisory Committee.

A staunch supporter of community engagement, especially as it relates to Hawaiian Culture, Keao is involved with, but not limited to the following projects and organizations:

- President of 2 Kaua‘i-based non-profits: Aupuni o Niihau in Waimea, and Ka Pua Hīnalo o Po‘okū (caretakers of Po‘okū Heiau)
- Member of Nāpali Coast ‘Ohana for 11 years, working on the restoration of the cultural sites

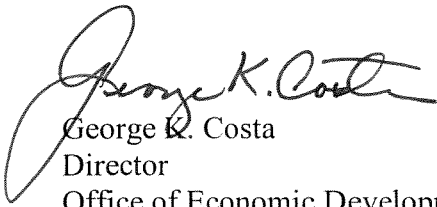
at Nu'alolo Kai

- Cultural advisor and composer for Leinā'ala Pavao-Jardin's hālau, Hālau ka Lei Mokihana o Leinā'ala
- Former teacher at Waimea High School for 2 years.

I am pledging my support and recommendation of Keao NeSmith as he is one of our outstanding citizens that represents Kaua'i and the State of Hawai'i with pride and passion which would serve him well as a member of the Island Burial Council.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or need further references.

Mahalo Nui Loa,



George K. Costa
Director
Office of Economic Development
County of Kauai

Michael J. DeMotta
P.O. Box 723
Hanapepe, HI 96716

April 8, 2016

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as testimony in support of the nomination of Richard NeSmith to the Island Burial Council.

I first met Richard Keao NeSmith when he was a freshman student in college. In the many years that I have known him he has always been dedicated to the Hawaiian culture, language and dance. Over the years he has immersed himself in understanding the nuances associated with the poetry of the Hawaiian language and his deep and thorough knowledge of traditional Hawaiian protocol make him an ideal and appropriate appointment to the Island Burial Council.

Please confirm Richard Keao NeSmith to the Island Burial Council. If anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mahalo

Michael J. DeMotta
mdemotta@hotmail.com