

GM 882/883

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 882
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUAI AND NIIHAU, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, THEODORE BLAKE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 882, nominating Mr. Theodore Blake to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau, expiring June 30, 2016.

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. Blake is the Executive Director of Malama Koloa, an organization that seeks to protect, preserve and perpetuate Hawaii's natural and cultural resources. His family is from the Koloa area and goes back 65 generations. In addition, he is a member of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, an organization whose representation on any Burial Council is appropriate.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Blake's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Kauai Niihau Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2016.

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HAWAII



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BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUAI AND NIIHAU, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, THEODORE BLAKE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2020**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 883, nominating Mr. Theodore Blake to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau expiring June 30, 2020.

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.

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Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Blake's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Kauai Niihau Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2020.



GM882

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL,
ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, THEODORE BLAKE, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2016**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 18, 2016

1:19 p.m.

Room 423

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM882, which confirms OHA Nominee Theodore "Teddy" Blake as the Kōloa regional representative to the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Island Burial Council.

Mr. Blake's has invested nearly his entire life working on Native Hawaiian issues, much of which is directly related to historic and cultural preservation. He currently serves as the executive director of Mālama Kōloa, which seeks to preserve, protect, and perpetuate Kōloa's natural resources, sacred and historic sites, and thriving natural ecosystem. His previous historic preservation background includes over 45 years of identifying, restoring, and preserving wahi pana and cultural sites. This lifetime of historic and cultural preservation work will greatly inform Mr. Blake's ability to assist the island burial council in fulfilling its important kuleana.

With 'ohana roots in the Kōloa area that extend at least 65 generations, Mr. Blake also feels a strong kuleana to represent his 'ohana, kūpuna, and the Hawaiian community of Kaua'i. This is reflected in his philosophy, which focuses on conflict resolution and treating all people with respect and dignity, and in his extensive record of public service. Mr. Blake currently chairs the Nā Ala Hele Council, serves on the Kaua'i County Open Space Commission, and remains actively involved with the Citizen's Advisory Committee; Public Access, Open Space & Natural Resources Preservation Fund; Traditional Hale Construction, Holo Holo Kōloa; Lāwa'i Kai Subzone Citizens' Advisory Committee; Hapa Trail Maintenance and Reconstruction; Concerned Citizens of Kōloa; and Kōloa Community Association. He is also an advisory board member of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA) and a board member for the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. Mr. Blake's demonstrated sense of kuleana, as reflected in his substantial community service work, further counsels his appointment as a committed and passionate individual who will serve the council to his best ability.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM882 to confirm Mr. Blake to the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.



GM883

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL,
ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, THEODORE BLAKE, FOR A
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From: [Charles Young](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: Kauai Island Burial Council
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 6:09:12 AM

Aloha Mai Kakou members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

My name is Charles KH Young and I am writing in support of Ted Blakes' appointment to the Kauai/Niihau Island Burial Council.

I have known Mr. Blake for a number of years and am familiar with the work that he does on behalf of the community of Koloa. His community service has included preserving, protecting and perpetuating Koloa's unique historical heritage. This work is driven by his Native Hawaiian heritage and his respect for his ancestors. He has experience in the aspects of preservation and balancing that with the pressures of development. Often times those are the issues that come before the Burial Councils. His work also includes collaborating with various County and State agencies and the processes that accompany that.

I can describe Mr. Blake as being honest and hard working with a long history of involvement in Native Hawaiian issues. Mr. Blake and I serve as Island representatives on a Statewide network comprised of community organizations from across the State. As such Mr. Blake can also draw from others experiences including from former Island Burial Council members.

I served on the Hawaii Island Burial Council for 12 years. 4 years as its' chair and 4 years as its' vice chair. I can attest that no one comes fully prepared for the work that the Island Burial Councils do. However I believe that Mr. Blake possesses the necessary knowledge and experience for that work and the character to meet the unique challenges of serving as an Island Burial Council member.

Thank you for this opportunity to write in support of Ted Blakes' appointment to the Kauai/Niihau Island Burial Council.

Respectfully

Charles KH Young
PO Box 505
Honaunau, Hi 96726

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM882 on Apr 18, 2016 13:19PM
Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016 11:38:47 PM

GM882

Submitted on: 4/16/2016

Testimony for HWN on Apr 18, 2016 13:19PM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators Gabbard and Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture, I submit this testimony in strong support of my friend Mr. Theodore Kawahinehelelani Blake's nomination to the Island Burial Council for the Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau (GM 882). He is an ideal candidate for this position for service to our community. Mr. Blake is a friend, colleague, mentor and wise elder for myself and many young people across a broad community network concerned with the preservation of culture and nature for our local and Native Hawaiian communities. He has -since I have known him- been a civic force in South Kaua'i and Koloa building bridges across broad social and cultural circles once as a businessman and today as community advocate. Mr. Blake cherishes his multitude of ancestors and respects their traditions and struggles. He has spent his time in retirement helping our Native Hawaiian and local community struggle with issues we need to address to lay a foundation for a brighter and more sustainable future. He will serve with these things in mind. I have had some personal and professional experience with Native Hawaiian burial issues in my past and have some understanding of its spiritual, emotional and sometime political weight. I have no doubt Mr. Blake will serve our state tremendously in helping our community as a thoughtful and engaged listener, mediator and decision maker. And as I have testified on others before him: I think our state needs to start putting more smart buggahs with big hearts on commissions that deal with aspects of our community that touch upon both. I appreciate this opportunity to express my support for Mr. Blake. Aloha nui. Kevin Chang

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
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for GM883 on Apr 18, 2016 13:19PM
Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016 11:39:21 PM

GM883

Submitted on: 4/16/2016

Testimony for HWN on Apr 18, 2016 13:19PM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senators Gabbard and Nishihara and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture, I submit this testimony in strong support of my friend Mr. Theodore Kawahinehelelani Blake's nomination to the Island Burial Council for the Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau (GM 883). He is an ideal candidate for this position for service to our community. Mr. Blake is a friend, colleague, mentor and wise elder for myself and many young people across a broad community network concerned with the preservation of culture and nature for our local and Native Hawaiian communities. He has -since I have known him- been a civic force in South Kaua'i and Koloa building bridges across broad social and cultural circles once as a businessman and today as community advocate. Mr. Blake cherishes his multitude of ancestors and respects their traditions and struggles. He has spent his time in retirement helping our Native Hawaiian and local community struggle with issues we need to address to lay a foundation for a brighter and more sustainable future. He will serve with these things in mind. I have had some personal and professional experience with Native Hawaiian burial issues in my past and have some understanding of its spiritual, emotional and sometime political weight. I have no doubt Mr. Blake will serve our state tremendously in helping our community as a thoughtful and engaged listener, mediator and decision maker. And as I have testified on others before him: I think our state needs to start putting more smart buggahs with big hearts on commissions that deal with aspects of our community that touch upon both. I appreciate this opportunity to express my support for Mr. Blake. Aloha nui. Kevin Chang

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM882 on Apr 18, 2016 13:19PM*
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 6:12:42 PM

GM882

Submitted on: 4/15/2016

Testimony for HWN on Apr 18, 2016 13:19PM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for GM883 on Apr 18, 2016 13:19PM*
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 6:13:24 PM

GM883

Submitted on: 4/15/2016

Testimony for HWN on Apr 18, 2016 13:19PM in Conference Room 423

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [Kolo](#)
To: [HWNTestimony](#)
Subject: Letter of Support for Ted Kawahinehelelani Blake
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 1:53:03 PM

The Honorable Senator Maile Shimabukuro, Chair Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I fully support the appointment of Mr. Ted Kawahinehelelani Blake to the Ni‘ihau/Kaua‘i Island Burial Council. He is grounded in his Hawaiian cultural roots and continues to support conservation and preservation of his island in his personal capacity today. The inclusion of working with the Island Burial Council is an important extension of what he already does daily in cultural protection and preservation. He is capable and responsible to take on this kuleana.

The responsibility to care for ones home island, community and family require disciplined knowledge, sharpened skills and a spirited character that works in tandem with an innate and inherent cultural embrace. These qualities are not acquired overnight, but are nurtured by Kupuna like the chewing and feeding of a punahele or favored child. All of the best is literally fed to the generation that will bridge the experiences and the knowledge of past, present and into the future. Working with and caring for iwi kupuna and their resting places is honorable and respectful. I believe that Mr. Blake is groomed, prepared and ready to take his place within the Ni‘ihau/Kaua‘i Island Burial Council.

Therefore, I humbly ask for your support and confirmation of his nomination to serve on the Ni‘ihau/Kaua‘i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

O wau no me ka ‘oia ‘i‘o,
Sol P. Kaho‘ohalahala