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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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**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**

**Thursday, April 6, 2017
1:15 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 601
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JORDAN
CALPITO FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 601, nominating Mr. Jordan Calpito to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i expiring June 30, 2021.

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Councils determine whether to preserve or relocate previously identified native Hawaiian burial sites, recognize lineal and cultural descendants, and provide counsel and advice to the Department.

Mr. Calpito is a resident of Hilo. He holds a B.A. in Political Science, with emphasis on indigenous politics and political history of land in Hawai'i. In addition, he has completed several courses in Hawaiian Studies and Anthropology at both U.H. Hilo and Manoa. He was previously employed at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, State Historic Preservation Division as the Maui Burial Sites Specialist. It is in that capacity that he gained knowledge and experience working with native Hawaiian burial sites, and the laws and administrative rules guiding the disposition of burial sites (including skeletal remains). Mr. Calpito also received training relevant to the identification, wrapping and cultural practices in preparation of reinterring native Hawaiian skeletal remains. Mr. Calpito has been serving on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council for almost a year now.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Calpito's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council until June 30, 2021.



GM600

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JORDAN CALPITO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2017

GM601

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, JORDAN CALPITO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 6, 2017

1:15 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** GM600 and GM601, which would confirm Jordan Calpito as a Hilo regional representative on the Hawai‘i Island Burial Council (HIBC).

Mr. Calpito has long been a scholar and advocate on issues relating to Native Hawaiian burials. He studied Hawaiian Language and Anthropology at the University of Hawai‘i (UH) at Hilo and received his B.A. in Political Science from UH Mānoa. Since that time, Mr. Calpito has been a guest lecturer at UH Hilo and also given many presentations at various UH campuses throughout the state on burial and historic preservation laws. Mr. Calpito has also previously served as a Burial Sites Specialist for Maui County at the State Historic Preservation Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Through this experience, he has conducted burial site visits, reviewed burial treatment plans, coordinated island burial council meetings, and developed a strong working understanding of the state’s historic preservation and burial processes. Mr. Calpito’s passion for and experience in protecting Native Hawaiian burials will make him a great asset to the HIBC.

OHA notes that, if confirmed, Mr. Calpito will be one of two Hilo representatives on his Island Burial Council. While both will represent the interests of the kūpuna and ‘ohana in their moku, one of these Hilo representatives will occupy a long vacant seat previously reserved for a representative of large landowner or developer interests; this is consistent with Act 276 of the 2013 Legislature, which addressed longstanding quorum issues that inhibited many of the island burial councils from meeting.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM600 and GM601, to confirm Mr. Calpito to the HIBC. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.