



GM602

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL
COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, MARY MAXINE
KAHAULELIO, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2019**
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** GM602, which would confirm Mary Maxine Kahalelio as a Kona regional representative on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council (HIBC).

Ms. Kahalelio has been actively involved in burial preservation work in the Kona moku for many years. She has also previously served on the HIBC as the Kona regional representative. As such, she is familiar with and has been actively engaging in the responsibilities of council membership including attending site visits, considering and helping resolve complex burial treatment plans, and ensuring a pono process in determining whether burials should be relocated or preserved in place. Ms. Kahalelio is an asset to her community, volunteering with the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center and organizing her community around various issues of Native Hawaiian concern. Ms. Kahalelio has been a staunch advocate on behalf of the kūpuna in her area, and the 'ohana of Kona will benefit greatly from her service on the HIBC.

OHA notes that, if confirmed, Ms. Kahalelio will be one of two Kona representatives on the HIBC. While both will represent the interests of the kūpuna and 'ohana in their moku, one of these Kona 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** GM602, to confirm Ms. Kahalelio to the HIBC. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.