

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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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**

**Thursday, April 13, 2017  
1:15PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 787  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA'I, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, EVALINA WATANABE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 787, nominating Ms. Evalina Watanabe to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lāna'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.

Ms. Watanabe was born and raised on Lāna'i and has genealogical ties to the island. She is seeking to represent that community. While she has lived on the island of Maui for the last 40 years, she nevertheless maintains a close relationship to her home island of Lāna'i and is committed to, as she says, "looking out" for her childhood community. Her past work experiences included working for the Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center and Castle and Cooke. Her past networking experiences include the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Kamehameha Schools, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Alu Like, and the Department of Education Kupuna Program. Ms. Watanabe has been serving on the Maui and Lāna'i Islands Burial Council since 2015.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Watanabe's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Maui and Lāna'i Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2021.



**GM787**

**SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, EVALINA NANI WATANABE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021**

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 13, 2017

1:15 p.m.

Room 016

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM787, which will confirm OHA Nominee, Evalina Nani Watanabe for an additional term as the Lāna‘i regional representative on the Maui and Lāna‘i Island Burial Council (MLIBC).

Ms. Watanabe lives on Maui but has strong genealogical ties to Lāna‘i where she was born and raised. She maintains connections to Lāna‘i through the kuleana land her family continues to own and by remaining active in the community. Ms. Watanabe learned much in her youth from being raised by her Tutu Daniel Kaopuiki, Sr., while he was a cultural specialist for Lāna‘i Company. She has formerly worked on Lāna‘i with the Queen Lili‘uokalani Children’s Center developing cultural programs for five years. She has also served as a consultant with Castle and Cooke Resorts in historic preservation and has assisted Hal Hammett with cultural surveys. Ms. Watanabe has visited many sacred places through her membership in Hui Mālama Pono o Lāna‘i and Lāna‘i Archaeological Committee. She has also helped reinter iwi from Lāna‘i Hale. Additionally, Ms. Watanabe has served on the Maui County Cultural Resource Commission for six years and has also served as a member of OHA’s Native Hawaiian Historic Preservation Council. There, she learned that approaching the complex challenges of development and historic preservation requires patience, collaboration, research, prayer, and mana‘o from our kūpuna.

For these reasons, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM787 to confirm Ms. Watanabe to the Maui and Lāna‘i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.