

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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STATE PARKS

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

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 809
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, LEIANA ROBINSON FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 809, nominating Ms. Leiana Robinson to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau expiring June 30, 2021.

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawai'i 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. Robinson was born and raised on the island of Ni'ihau. This allows her to provide a unique perspective to the council's deliberations as someone who was reared in a predominately full-blooded native Hawaiian community. In addition, Ms. Robinson's first language is her mother tongue. Ms. Robinson currently serves on the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Islands Burial Council and she remains committed to continuing that service to her people.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Robinson's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2021.



GM809

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUA‘I AND NI‘IHAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LEIANA ROBINSON, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 13, 2017

1:15 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM809, which will confirm OHA Nominee, Leiana Robinson for an additional term as the Ni‘ihau regional representative on the Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau Island Burial Council (KNIBC).

Ms. Robinson is a native of Ni‘ihau which, she expresses, imbues her with a deep and unique understanding of, appreciation for, and kuleana to the people of her island, especially the kūpuna who came before. She has formerly served for many terms on the KNIBC and is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to serve again.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM809 to confirm Ms. Robinson to the Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.