

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
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
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 814
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O'AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KALI
FERMANTEZ FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 814, nominating Mr. Kali Fermantez to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu 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.

Mr. Fermantez was born, raised and continues to live in the Ko'olauloa region of O'ahu. He has a PhD in Geography and a Graduate Certificate in Pacific Islands Studies from the University of Hawai'i-Mānoa. He also holds a Master's Degree in Geography from Brigham Young University-Utah) and a Bachelor's Degree in Geography from Brigham Young University-Lā'ie. Mr. Fermantez is currently an Assistant Professor of Hawaiian and Pacific Studies at Brigham Young University-Lā'ie. He is a member of the Ko'olauloa Hawaiian Civic Club and serves as a basketball, baseball, and soccer assistant coach in his community. Mr. Fermantez's strong understanding of the Hawaiian culture brings an assertive, yet fair voice to the proper treatment of native Hawaiian burials.

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