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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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**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 12, 2018
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 722
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
KALENA BLAKEMORE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 722, nominating Ms. Kalena Blakemore 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 in place or relocate previously identified native Hawaiian burial sites, recognize lineal and cultural descendants, and provide counsel and advice to the Department.

Kalena Blakemore is a resident of the Island of Hawai'i. She recently earned her M.A. in Heritage Management at the University of Hawai'i-Hilo. Her M.A. program emphasis included stewardship and management in archaeology, ethnographic history, museology and paleobotany in the Pacific. Her B.A. is in Anthropology. She is currently employed at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs as the Land Management Specialist for the Island of Hawai'i. Prior to pursuing her M.A., Ms. Blackmore worked as an archaeologist in cultural resources management at the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Ms. Blackmore previously served on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council from June 2013-June 2017.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Blakemore's esteemed knowledge and perspective emerges during the deliberations of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council until June 30, 2021.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



GM722

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KALENA BLAKEMORE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 12, 2018

1:20 p.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Committee on Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** GM722, which confirms Kalena Blakemore as a large landowner representative to the Hawai'i Island Burial Council.

Ms. Blakemore's dedication to cultural and natural resource preservation, as well as her archaeological experience, make her an excellent selection as a nominee to the Hawai'i Island Burial Council. Ms. Blakemore currently resides in Volcano and has genealogical ties to Puna ('Ola'a), Hilo (Keaukaha), and Kohala (Kokoiki). She has been engaged in the field of historic preservation for many years, serving as an archaeologist in Cultural Resources Management for Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Through this experience, she has identified inadvertent burials and implemented protective protocols, inventoried caves, monitored federal National Historic Preservation Act Section 110 and 106 compliance, and performed high altitude and coastal back country archaeological surveys. Ms. Blakemore received a B.A. in anthropology from the University of Hawai'i, Hilo and interned with the Department of Land and Natural Resources' State Historic Preservation Division. During her time there, she gained a firm foundation in cultural practices and the necessity for balance with the sometimes-tumultuous issues taken up by the burial councils.

Ms. Blakemore has been previously nominated by OHA to serve on the HIBC and represented the Puna region for a term of four years. Now, as the lead specialist managing OHA's 25,856 acres in Wao Kele o Puna, she seeks to serve as a large landowner representative. Kalena's work in Wao Kele o Puna exemplifies responsible, indigenous stewardship of land and natural resources, beneficiary engagement, promotion of cultural practices, and historic site preservation. She will make an excellent representative of responsible large landowner interests in the Hawai'i Island Burial Council's decisionmaking regarding Hawai'i Island's iwi kūpuna.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM722 to confirm Ms. Blakemore to the Hawai'i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.