



GM573

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MOLOKA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LA'AKEA POEPOE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2021
Ke Kōmike Kuleana Hawai'i

Pepeluali 26, 2019

1:16 p.m.

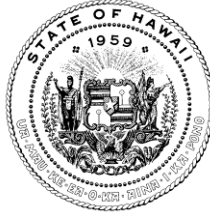
Lumi 016

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** GM573, confirming La'akea Poepoe's nomination to the Moloka'i Island Burial Council.

Mr. Poepoe would make a great addition to the Moloka'i Island Burial Council and brings with him ample experience and cultural knowledge. Mr. Poepoe has long been a staunch advocate for the proper stewardship of cultural and natural resources, utilizing ancestral wisdom and traditional methodologies to address modern issues and challenges. He is a community organizer with a long history of service on Moloka'i and across Ka Pae 'Āina o Hawai'i. His previous service on the Moloka'i Planning Commission exemplifies his commitment to public service, and also demonstrates his well-rounded approach to serving on a government commission; as a member of the Commission, Mr. Poepoe prioritized responsibility and accountability, and keenly integrated cultural knowledge and traditional and customary practices in the development of conservation strategies and the navigation of complex administrative processes. OHA believes that Mr. Poepoe has been an excellent advocate for the people and resources of his moku-puni and would serve as a great resource on behalf of the kūpuna of Moloka'i.

For these reasons, OHA urges the committee to **PASS** GM573 to confirm Mr. Poepoe's nomination to the Moloka'i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
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**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019
1:16 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 016

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 573
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MOLOKA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
LA'AKEA POEPOE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 573, nominating Mr. La'akea Poepoe to the Island Burial Council, Island of Moloka'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/advice to the Department.

Mr. Poepoe, of part Native Hawaiian ancestry, is a lineal descendant of those born and raised on Moloka'i. He has been a member of Hui Malama O Mo'omomi since 1993, working in natural and cultural conservation and preservation. As such, he possesses personal knowledge of areas that contain significant cultural sites and burial grounds. His participation in the Moloka'i Planning Commission has gained him familiarity with public meetings processes and procedures. He has also gained knowledge in laws pertaining to native Hawaiian land use and access rights. He is a Hawaiian language speaker and practitioner of Hawaiian lawai'a (fishing) practices and customs. Mr. Poepoe has been serving on the Council on an interim basis since June 4, 2018.

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

GM-573

Submitted on: 2/15/2019 9:31:19 AM

Testimony for HWN on 2/26/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Healani Sonoda-Pale	Testifying for Ka Lahui Hawaii Political Action Committee	Support	No

Comments:

La'akea Poepoe is a Keiki O Ka 'Aina of Moloka'i and has the 'ike and heart to malama burials on Molokai.

GM-573

Submitted on: 2/21/2019 7:05:39 PM

Testimony for HWN on 2/26/2019 1:16:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elle Cochran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Luna Ho'omaluku Shimabukuro and Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Kahele,

I am in wholehearted support of our Governor's nominee La'akea Poepoe to be the Moloka'i representative on the Burial Council. La'a has been an outstanding positive strong voice for Moloka'i during the update of their Island Plan, Moloka'i Planning Commission issues and all kinds of Moloka'i community needs.

He will be an awesome warrior for our Iwi Kupuna!

Mahalo for this opportunity to share my Mana'o,

Elle Cochran

808-281-7709