

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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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, March 14, 2019
1:17 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 623
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU'I, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, JOHNNETTE KAHALEKAI FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2023**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 623, nominating Ms. Johnnette Kahalekai to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau expiring June 30, 2023.

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. Kahalekai was born and raised on the island of Kaua'i. She attended Kaua'i High School, University of Hawai'i for a year and the Kaua'i Community College, where she earned a construction Technician Certificate. She currently sits on the Kupuna Council of Kaua'i that is sponsored by Ho'ola Lahui/Papa Lokahi,. Johnnette is an ordained Kahu and Wedding Officiant at the Church of Universal Light. Ms. Kahalekai is a ho'oponopono practitioner.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Kahalekai's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Kaua'i Ni'ihau Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2023.