


OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai
Legislative Testimony

GM739

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KALENA BLAKEMORE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2025

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hawai‘i
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Malaki 30, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM739, which would confirm Kalena Blakemore for reappointment to the Hawai‘i Island Burial Council, as a large landowner representative.

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). 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. She has also 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. During her time with the National Park, she identified inadvertently uncovered 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 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 is being nominated 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. OHA believes that she will be 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** GM739, to confirm Ms. Blakemore to the Hawai‘i Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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, March 30, 2021
1:00 PM-2:30 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 739
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KALENA
BLAKEMORE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2025**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 739, nominating Ms. Kalena Blakemore to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i expiring June 30, 2025.

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.

Kalena Blakemore is a resident of Hawai'i island. She has an M.A. in Heritage Management from the University of Hawai'i-Hilo. Her master's program included stewardship and management in archaeology, ethnography, museology and paleobotany in the Pacific. Ms. Blakemore's bachelor's degree is in Anthropology. Ms. Blakemore is currently the Land Management Specialist in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs Hawai'i office. She has acquired much archaeology cultural resource management experience and expertise when she previously worked for the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. Ms. Blakemore currently serves on the Hawai'i Island Burial Council as its vice-chair.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Blakemore's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council until June 30, 2025.

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

GM-739

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:58:52 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Downer	Testifying for DLNR	Support	No

Comments:

I am available for questions. Please allow me Zoom access. Thank you.

GM-739

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 2:50:14 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/30/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the confirmation of Kalena Blakemore for Hawaii Island Burial Council.

Mahalo,

Shane Akoni Palacat-Nelsen

South Kona Resident