


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

GM741

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHARLES MITCHELL, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2023

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** GM741, which would confirm Charles “‘Auli‘i” Mitchell as a Kona regional representative on the O‘ahu Island Burial Council.

Mr. Mitchell has long demonstrated a deep interest in Native Hawaiian cultural practices and a passion for the preservation and protection of iwi kūpuna. His experience with archaeological resources and community consultation have made him an invaluable resource to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council for the past five years. OHA notes that, although he has represented the Wai‘anae moku in the past, Mr. Mitchell prefers to represent the Kona moku at present. He seeks to assist the present Kona representative with the disproportionately heavy load of site visits in Honolulu compared with other moku.

A current resident of Wai‘anae, Mr. Mitchell’s birthlands were at Kalia in the Kona moku. His dedication to the preservation of iwi kūpuna was inspired at a young age when, as a child, he was selected by his ‘ohana to care for the iwi of his own kūpuna. He later supplemented his traditional training with a B.A. in Anthropology with an emphasis in archaeology from the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, and a Masters in Applied Indigenous Knowledge at Te Wānanga O Aotearoa University. Subsequently, Mr. Mitchell personally assisted with the repatriation of iwi kupuna and moepū, worked on the long term preservation plan for portions of a trail located in West Hawai‘i Veteran’s Cemetery, conducted the archaeological inventory survey for a 71-acre parcel in Kawela, and drafted several burial treatment plans. He has also conducted cultural assessments, and developed collections of traditions, historical accounts, and mo‘olelo of Kea‘au, Kahuwai, Pu‘ala‘a, Kauaea, Kaueleau, and Hawai‘i. Mr. Mitchell remains an active member of the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology.

In addition to his archaeological and burial expertise, Mr. Mitchell has also demonstrated a deep interest in the broader perpetuation of his cultural heritage, which further counsels his appointment to the Council. Fluent in Hawaiian, Mr. Mitchell has

worked as an interpreter and cultural specialist at the Lyman Mission House Memorial Museum in Hilo, and has dedicated much of his time to a variety of Hawaiian community and educational organizations. He currently serves on the board of directors of Ke Kula Nā Mea Hawai‘i, as the president of Ho‘oulu Lahui/Kua O Ka Lā Public Charter School, and as a kumu hula for Hālau O Kahiwahiwa & Hālau o Moana-nui-a-Kiwa.

Mr. Mitchell’s lifetime of cultural and archaeological experience, combined with his experience representing the Wai‘anae moku for the past five years, has allowed him and will continue to allow him to be a valuable resource to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM741, to confirm Mr. Mitchell for reappointment to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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**

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

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 741
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O'AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, CHARLES
MITCHELL FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-23**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 741, nominating Mr. Charles Mitchell to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu 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.

Charles Auli'i Mitchell currently serves on the Oahu Island Burial Council as its vice-chair and has been a valuable asset ever since. His B.A. in Anthropology is from the University of Hawai'i-Hilo and his Master's in Applied Indigenous Knowledge is from Te Wānanga O Aotearoa Universities, Hamilton, Aotearoa New Zealand. He has extensive experience in the lineal and cultural descendant migration processes when working with burial treatment plan creation and development, as well as experience and knowledge in ethnographic studies. Mr. Mitchell is fluent in Hawaiian and thus has deep knowledge of the nuances of his mother tongue. He is currently employed by Cultural Surveys Hawai'i where he has obtained knowledge and experience in performing archaeological inventorying and surveying, created and developed burial treatment plans, and has written Cultural Impact Assessments.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Mitchell's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the O'ahu Island Burial Council until June 30, 2023.

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-741

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 9:59:50 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-741

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:24:06 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Luna Ho'omalū Shimabukuro, Hope Luna Ho'omalū Keohokalole, and members of the committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I have known Charles Auli'i Mitchell since highschool where I learned hula from his mother 'A'ana Cash Mitchell. I am glad to see that Auli'i has continued his interest in cultural anthropology and Hawaiian culture. He will be a trusted O'ahu Burial Council Member. I am in strong support.

Aloha nā ,

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

Pāloa, Hawai'i