


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

GM745

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O‘AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM MILLS, 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** GM745, which would confirm William Mills’ reappointment to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council.

Mr. Mills presently brings to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council a wealth of knowledge on Hawaiian cultural resources, burial practices, and local historic preservation law and policy. Mr. Mills built a strong foundation of experience in burials and historic preservation during his tenure as a Burial Sites Specialist at the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. He also gained invaluable experience in administrative affairs through his work at the Office of the State Auditor, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands, and most recently with Kamehameha Schools. His current service on the Honolulu County Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission further exemplifies his lifelong commitment to cultural and natural resource preservation as well as public service. Additionally, Mr. Mills has served as a representative of large landowner and developer interests on the O‘ahu Island Burial Council since 2018. With this experience and expertise, OHA believes that Mr. Mills will continue provide the O‘ahu Island Burial Council with valuable mana‘o as it fulfills its important statutory mandates.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM745, to confirm Mr. Mills’ reappointment to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 745
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O'AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, WILLIAM
MILLS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-25**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 745, nominating Mr. William Mills to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu expiring June 30, 2024.

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.

William Kamana'o Mills currently serves on the O'ahu Island Burial Council. Kamana'o is a graduate of Aiea High School. He has a B.A. with Distinction in Hawaiian Language as well as a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Kamana'o brings to the council a vast and comprehensive background in planning and managing a variety of programs and projects acquired by working at the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Office of the State Auditor, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. He has taught Hawaiian at Kapi'olani Community College, the University of Hawai'i-Manoa, and at Wai'au Elementary, Kula Kaiapuni Hawaiian Immersion. More importantly, Kamana'o has experience managing burial cases on O'ahu and Hawai'i while employed at the State Historic Preservation Division almost 20 years ago.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Mills' knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the O'ahu Island Burial Council until June 30, 2024.

GM-745

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:01:36 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-745

Submitted on: 3/20/2021 12:26:51 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 William Kamana'opono Mills since we were Hawaiian language students at the University of Hawai'i, at Manoa nearly 30 years ago. He has the experience and knowledge necessary to serve on the O'ahu Island Burial Council. I am in strong support.

Aloha nā ,

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

Pālo, Hawai'i

GM-745

Submitted on: 3/28/2021 10:22:09 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas T Shirai Jr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lee & Committee Members,

My name is Thomas T Shirai Jr who has served 2 terms on the Oahu Island Burial Council. I support Kamana'o (William) Mills to serve on the Oahu Island Burial Council. He was SHPD Staff in the Burial Sites Program working under Kai Markel. He has knowledge of HRS Chapter 6E, NAGPRA (Native Hawaiian Graves Protection Act) Chapter 106 of The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) along with ARPA (Archeological Resource Preservation Act). He accompanied me to the Hawaii Bottle Collectors meeting to address Iwi Kupuna disturbance at construction sites in Kakaako.

I endorse GM 745 nominating Kamana'o Mills to serve on the Oahu Island Burial Council. Mahalo nui loa.

Thomas T Shirai Jr

Mokule'ia, Waialua

GM-745

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 11:53:14 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Mahealani McClellan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a kupuna, this topic is near and dear to my heart. I write today in support of Kamana'o Mills for reappointment to the O'ahu Island Burial Council.

Having attended OIBC meetings regularly over the last 2+ years, in-person or electronically, I have observed Mr. Mills' skills as a current member of the Council. He is very competent and knowledgeable of his duties as well as being knowledgeable in important Hawaiian cultural practices related to 'iwi kupuna. As one of two representatives of a large land owner on the Board, he fairly responds to other council members' or audience questions and also asks probing questions, as needed. His term on this Board should definitely be extended.

I definitely support the reappointment of Mr. Mills to the O'ahu Island Burial Council for as long a term as is possible. Mahalo!

J. Mahealani McClellan