

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

**GM748**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA‘I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KYLE NAKANELUA, 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

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM748, which would confirm former OHA nominee Kyle Nakanelua’s continued service on the Maui and Lāna‘i Island Burial Council (MLIBC).

Mr. Kyle Nakanelua has the requisite community connections and cultural expertise to excellently represent the Hāna moku on the MLIBC. Mr. Nakanelua and his ‘ohana have deep lineal connections to Hāna. Over the past 35 years, Mr. Nakanelua has worked on his family’s farm with his grandmother, who passed down to him the oral traditions and ancestral knowledge of their ahupua‘a and moku. In light of her gift, he has always felt kuleana to contribute to the thoughtful management and protection of the iwi kūpuna of his ahupua‘a, moku, and mokupuni. Mr. Nakanelua has also worked as a cultural consultant for the State of Hawai‘i since 1996, specializing in educating clients about Native Hawaiian cultural traditions, spiritual customs, and protocols. Further, Mr. Nakanelua has practiced cultural preservation through his involvement with several community organizations: he has served as the Operations Officer of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, and currently sits on the Pu‘ukoholā Heiau National Historic Site Advisory Committee, as well as the Pihanakalani and Haleki‘i Heiau Restoration Committee. Mr. Kanelua has been serving as the Hāna representative on the MLIBC since 2019. His connections, experiences, and activities strongly counsel Mr. Nakanelua’s continued service on the MLIBC.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM748 to confirm Mr. Nakanelua to an additional term on the Maui and Lāna‘i 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 748  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF MAUI AND LĀNA'I, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, KYLE NAKANELUA FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-25**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 747, nominating Mr. Kyle Nakanelua Maxwell to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Maui and Lāna'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.

Mr. Nakanelua, of part Native Hawaiian ancestry, is a lineal descendant of those born and raised on the island of Maui and currently serves on the burial council. He has worked as a Cultural Consultant to the Pu'ukohola National Historic Site, State Department of Transportation-Airports Division, and the Royal of Kamehameha (of which he was a member). Mr. Nakanelua has successfully completed training in traditional Hawaiian martial sciences and Hawaiian estoteric knowledge. He also does private contractor work for clients seeking understanding and knowledge of traditional Hawaiian rites, rituals, and protocols. His current service on the council reflects his ability to remain calm, think logically and rationally, but more importantly, to treat all with respect, whether or not they disagree with him.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Nakanelua knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Maui Lāna'i Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2025.

**GM-748**

Submitted on: 3/29/2021 10:02:56 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Downer	Testifying for DLNR	Support	No

Comments:

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

**GM-748**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 3:51:31 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kaulu Luuwai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am from Maui and I strongly support this nomination. Mr. Nakanelua has experience dealing burial issues from a cultural and pono perspective and a highly engaged member of the Maui community who cares about the effects of dishonoring/honoring burials on Native Hawaiians.