

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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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
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, April 8, 2021  
1:00 PM-2:30 PM  
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 766  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MOLOKA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
KEOMAILANI HIRATA FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-23**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 766, nominating Ms. Keomailani Hirata to the Island Burial Council, Island of Moloka'i 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.

Keomailani Hanapi Hirata is a graduate of Moloka'i High and Intermediate School, indicating that she is truly a keiki o ka 'aina and kupa o ka 'aina of Moloka'i. Of equal importance, she is a graduate of Hawai'i Pacific University with a B.A. in Humanities, Hawaiian Studies. Much of her experience and knowledge comes from her parents, Alapa'i and Mililani Hanapi. Her parents have continuously been involved in traditional and cultural practices that include the care and protection of iwi kupuna. Ms. Hirata represents the next generation, those of whom this honorable kuleana will be passed on to.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Hanapi's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Moloka'i Island Burial Council until June 30, 2023.

**GM-766**

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 11:55:30 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/8/2021 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.

**LATE**

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

**GM766**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MOLOKAI, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEOMAILANI HIRATA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2023  
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Kuleana Hawai‘i  
Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

‘Apelila 8, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Hālāwai Keleka‘a‘ike

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** GM766, which would confirm Keomailani Hanapi Hirata as the East Moloka‘i representative to the Moloka‘i Island Burial Council.

Ms. Hirata considers herself a “keiki o ka ‘āina” and a kupa ‘āina of Moloka‘i. Her ‘ohana comes from the the ahupua‘a of ‘Aha‘ino on the East end of Moloka‘i and she was raised on the kuleana lands of her ‘ohana. Her knowledge on Native Hawaiian burial sites started when her parents became involved in the Moloka‘i Island Burial Council, serving both as past board members, as well as Moloka‘i’s repository for iwi kūpuna. In addition to receiving a Bachelor’s degree in Hawaiian Studies from Hawai‘i Pacific University, Ms. Hirata was educated on federal and state laws regarding burial sites in Hawai‘i and her parents taught her the cultural protocols of caring for iwi kūpuna. Ms. Hirata believes that it is her kuleana to serve on the Moloka‘i Island Burial Council to mālama iwi kūpuna buried on Moloka‘i.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM766. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.