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HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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LAND
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**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 770
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, SHERRI-LEE CUMMINGS YOKOTAKE
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 769, nominating Ms. Sheri-Lee Cummings Yokotake to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau 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.

Sherri-Lee Cummings Yokotake was born and raised in Anahola, Kaua'i. She is a graduate of Kapa'a High School. She is the former owner of a construction company (LYC Incorporated Construction Company) and currently works for Budget Car Rental. Ms. Yokotake's maternal genealogical ties are to Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, and her paternal genealogical ties are to Maui and Hawai'i island. She has served on the Hawaiian Homestead Association, the Kanuikapono Charter School, the Anahola Town Outrigger Canoe Club, and has recently founded a non-profit called Malama Anahola. The overall mission of Malama Anahola is to partner with community and government agencies for the purpose of improving the lives of native Hawaiians. All this illustrates Ms. Yokotake's commitment to the betterment of the Hawaiian condition, which includes and involves taking care of iwi kupuna.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Yokotake's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Kaua'i Ni'ihau Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2025.

GM-770

Submitted on: 4/7/2021 11:57:32 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/8/2021 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.

LATE


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

GM769

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUAI AND NIIHAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SHERRI-LEE CUMMINGS YOKOTAKE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2021

and

GM770

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUAI AND NI‘IHAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, SHERRI-LEE CUMMINGS YOKOTAKE, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2025

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

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** GM769 and GM770, which would confirm Sherri-Lee Uilani Cummings Yokotake as the Hanalei regional representative to the Kaua‘i and Ni‘ihau Island Burial Council.

Ms. Yokotake is born and raised in Anahola, Kaua‘i on the Anahola Hawaiian Homestead. A self-described “keiki o ka ‘āina,” she is a lifelong Department of Hawaiian Home Lands beneficiary. Ms. Yokotake has been active in the Native Hawaiian community, and has served in leadership roles for several organizations, including as the vice president of the Hanalei Hawaiian Civic Club, a member of the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement’s board of directors, as the director of native rights for the Sovereign Council of Hawaiian Homestead Associations, vice president of the Anahola Hawaiian Homes Association, and as a founder of Mālama Anahola, a Native Hawaiian nonprofit organization. In several of these roles, Ms. Yokotake worked on matters resulting in legislative policies and resolutions with impacts on the Native Hawaiian community and allowed her to advocate at the state and federal levels.

As a former contractor and land developer, Ms. Yokotake was involved in due diligence related to the inadvertent discovery of iwi on projects her company worked with. In this capacity, she developed cultural mitigation plans prior to the start of all projects with high likelihoods of encountering significant findings, including unmarked ancestral burials. These efforts allowed her company to mitigate inadvertent discovery of iwi kūpuna. This experience also gives her an understanding of land development and construction issues.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM769 and GM770.
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on these important measures.