

Presentation Before the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture

Barbara J. Say

Kauai-Niihau Island Burial Council

Chair Inouye, members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to present background about myself in your consideration of my confirmation to the Kauai-Niihau Island Burial Councils.

I was born and raised in Hawai'i. I grew up in West-Kaua'i, but married and raised my children in Hanalei, from 1962. During my years in North-Kaua'i, I spent my leisure time interacting with the Kupuna from Hanalei. Many were ohana who once lived in Na Pali, Haena, Wainiha and Hanalei.

I have previously served as one of the first burial council members appointed at the request of Kupuna Gabriel I. I was privilege to be a member of a group of thirteen individuals that repatriated "iwi kupuna" from the Smithsonian Institute under NAGPRA.

I am a member of Aha Hui Kaahumanu, Chapter 3, Lihu'e branch. I am also a member of Waioli Hui'ia Church, and a choir member.

It takes a special individual with a clear and concise understanding of the responsibility of serving as a member of a burial council. I understand and accept this position with dignity that must be afforded all those who have passed on and those with whom we must continue to live with.