



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawaii State Aha Moku
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Thursday, March 3, 2022
1:15 P.M.

Support for Governor Message 578, Lynette Cruz
Island Burial Council, Island of O’ahu

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice-Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer strong support for Governor Message 578, Lynette Cruz. This message is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the O’ahu Island Burial Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2023.

Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) Kakuhihewa (Island of O’ahu) supports this submittal.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku, Island of Kakuhihewa (O’ahu) works with participants of all six moku – Waianae, Waialua, Ko’olauloa, Ko’olaupoko, Kona and Ewa as well as many of the eighty-eight (88) ahupua’a encompassed within these moku.

Professor Cruz is a native Hawaiian, a historian, and a life supporter of natural and cultural resources of Hawaii. The Hawaiian culture itself is symbiotic with the resources of Hawai’i, particularly the burial practices of the different ahupua’a and generational families. The burial places and practices of the generational families of each ahupua’a is unique to each place. Professor Cruz understands the importance of the burial site as well as its worth and prominence to the lineal and generational families connected to each burial.

Aha Moku supports Lynette Cruz as a member of the O’ahu Island Burial Council and urges this Committee to confirm Governor Message 578.

Respectfully yours,

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho’okumu, Email: kahalelehua@outlook.com
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Hawaii State Aha Moku

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 3, 2022
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 578
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O'AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LYNETTE
CRUZ FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-23**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 578, nominating Ms. Lynette Cruz to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu 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.

Lynette Cruz is a resident of Wai'anae. She holds a B.A. in Pacific Studies (Hawai'i Pacific University), a master's degree in Anthropology (University of Hawai'i-Manoa), and a Ph.D. in Anthropology (University of Hawai'i-Manoa). Her professional history includes teaching at various universities (Hawai'i Pacific University, University of Hawai'i) from 1988 through 2015. She is a member of Life of the Land and serves as president of Ka lei Maile Ali'i Hawaiian Civic Club, Malama Makua and Hui Aloha Aina o Ka Lei Maile Ali'i.

Lynette is an advocate of all things malama aina, that of which is reflected in her volunteer work at various places such as Iolani Palace, Kaniakapupu and of course, within her own community of Wai'anae. She has been serving as an interim appointee.

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

GM-578

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 11:02:57 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/3/2022 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support of Dr. Cruz. I've known her for the past 30 years. Her experience in historical properties will be value added to the burial council.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

GM-578

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 7:24:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/3/2022 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamana'o Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Lynette Cruz to serve on the Oahu Island Burial Council.

GM-578

Submitted on: 3/2/2022 7:32:41 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/3/2022 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing in appreciation for Governor's Message 578, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNETTE CRUZ, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

I am not an expert on the Council's kuleana. From what I have seen, Ms. Cruz has always shown a fierce commitment to stewarding the environment and human rights, for us as human beings who are within and part of nature. The work of the Island Burial Council demands specialized preservation knowledge and moral steadfastness, to honor our commitments to those who came before us. Based on her qualifications and character, Ms. Cruz seems to be among the best possible candidates who are available and willing to serve.

Humbly, I thank the Committee for its consideration, and the candidates who step forward to serve this trust position.

Mahalo nui loa,
Dylan P. Armstrong