



**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 579, Benjamin Shafer**  
**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 support for Governor Message 579, Benjamin Shafer. This message is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the O’ahu Island Burial Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2024.

**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.

Mr. Shafer is a native Hawaiian who is a generational descendant of Kahana Valley where he continues to live. He is knowledgeable about the moku of Ko’olauloa particularly; supports his Kupuna which is the cultural way of receiving ‘ike in regards to traditional native Hawaiian burials; and is a fair and thoughtful man.

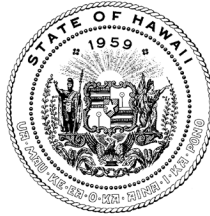
Aha Moku supports Benjamin Shafer as a member of the O’ahu Island Burial Council and urges this Committee to confirm Governor Message 579.

Respectfully yours,

Kawaikapuokalani Hewett, Ka Mea Ho’okumu, Email: [kahalelehua@outlook.com](mailto:kahalelehua@outlook.com)  
Rocky Kaluhiwa, Kahu Nui O Kakuhihewa, Email: [rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com](mailto:rockykaluhiwa1122@gmail.com),  
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Hawaii State Aha Moku

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**

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

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 579  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O'AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BENJAMIN  
SHAFFER FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-24**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 579, nominating Mr. Benjamin Shafer to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu expiring June 30, 2024.**

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.

Benjamin Shafer lives in Hau'ula. He holds a B.A. in Political Science with Emphasis on Government History from Brigham Young University-Hawai'i. His past work experience includes being a USAF Fire Fighter Supervisor, Customer Service Representative with Aloha Care, Inc., and he is currently employed as a Technician with Local 665 IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees and Film).

Benjamin is active in his community. He is the past chair of the Kahana Planning Council, past Co-chair of the Kahana Advisory Board, past president of the Hau'ula Community Health Center, Community Association and Neighborhood Board, and Co-chair of Keep the Country COUNTRY. He is currently serving as an interim appointee.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Shafer's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the O'ahu Island Burial Council until June 30, 2024.

**GM-579**

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 7:25:38 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kamana'o Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Benjamin Shafer to serve on the Oahu Island Burial Council.

**GM-579**

Submitted on: 3/2/2022 7:35:33 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
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 579, Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, Gubernatorial Nominee, BENJAMIN SHAFER, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.

I am not an expert on the Council's kuleana. I have known Ben for years; he is a trustworthy and generous person who cares deeply about the land and people.

The work of the Island Burial Council demands specialized preservation knowledge and moral steadfastness, to honor our commitments to those who came before us.

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