

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 645
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, TRAVEN
APIKI FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2025**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 645, nominating Mr. Traven Apiki to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'i 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.

Mr. Apiki lives in Hilo and is applying for the Hilo seat. He has a B.A. in Geography-Environmental Studies from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. In addition to meeting his major course requirements, he has taken Hawaiian language, history, and anthropology courses. Traven is serving as a volunteer at the State Historic Preservation Division Hilo office since 2019. His duties include assisting the Burial Sites Specialists in reviewing burial treatment plans and accompanying the Hilo staff in responding to the inadvertent discovery of human skeletal remains. Like many others, Traven's genealogy takes him throughout the entire island of Hawai'i. Mr. Apiki is a hula and oli practitioner, mo'olelo researcher, and native craftsman.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Apiki's knowledge and perspective informs the deliberations of the Hawai'i Island Burial Council until June 30, 2025.

SUZANNE D. CASE
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