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GOVERNOR OF
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, March 10, 2022
1:00PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 016, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 703
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, BRUCE ROBINSON FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2025**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports Governor's Message 703, nominating Mr. Bruce Robinson 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.

Mr. Robinson's aloha and understanding of Ni'ihau's needs does not require mentioning. He has personal and intimate knowledge of Ni'ihau, its people, and its unique customs that spans more than 60 years. He has been the island manager for 52 years. He is fluent in what is referred to as Ni'ihau Hawaiian. In the past, Bruce served two terms on the Kaua'i Ni'ihau Islands Burial Council, under the leadership of LaFrance Kapaka-Arboelda. Ms. Kapaka-Arboelda's service to the council is well known throughout the islands. In his own words: "I wish to serve on this council to maintain continuity in the representation of Niihau interests on the Kauai and Niihau burial council."

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



**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
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Thursday, March 10, 2022
1:00 P.M.

**Support for Governor Message, Bruce Robinson
Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Ni'ihau**

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 703, Bruce Robinson. This message is submitted for consideration and confirmation to the Kauai and Ni'ihau Island Burial Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2025.

Participants in the Hawaii State Aha Moku (Aha Moku) Manokalanipo (Island of Kauai) and Ka Aina O Kawelonakala (Island of Ni'ihau) supports this submittal.

The Hawaii State Aha Moku, works with participants of the traditional moku of Kaua'i – Mana, Makaweli, Kona, Koloa, Puna, Ko'olau, Halele'a, and Napali Kona and Ewa including many of the sixty-nine (69) ahupua'a encompassed within these moku; and with the Island of Ni'ihau when needed.

Bruce Robinson is one of the owners of Ni'ihau and has dedicated his life to the welfare and traditions of that island inherited from his Kupuna as a sacred kuleana. He is a just, kind, compassionate man who thoroughly understands and lives the native Hawaiian culture. He understands the revered and ever-lasting connection of the generational 'Ohana of each site. The burial places and practices of the generational families of each ahupua'a is unique to each place on Manokalanipo and on Ka 'Aina O Kawelonakala. Bruce Robinson 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 strongly supports Bruce Robinson as a member of the Kaua'i and Ni'ihau Island Burial Council and urges this Committee to Advise and Consent Governor Message 703.

Respectfully yours,

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Hawaii State Aha Moku