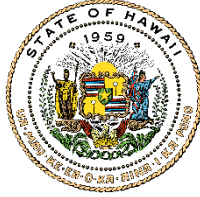


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
WATER AND LAND  
Tuesday, January 30, 2024  
9:00AM  
State Capitol Room 415 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1529  
RELATING TO BURIAL COUNCILS

House Bill 1529 would amend section 6E-43.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to allow a burial council member whose term has expired to continue in office as a holdover member until the member's reappointment to a second term is confirmed or a successor is nominated and appointed. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers comments.**

House Bill 1529 would amend section 6E-43.5 HRS to expressly allow an island burial council member who's first term has expired to continue to serve as a holdover until their successor is appointed and qualified. Section 26-34 HRS governs the appointment of members of boards and commissions, including the island burial councils. Section 26-34(a) expressly authorizes members to serve as holdover members until their successor is appointed and qualified, unless they have reached the end of their second term.

The Department believes that this amendment is unnecessary as current law already specifically addresses council member service as a holdover. Accordingly, the Department recommends that the Committee hold this measure without action.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

**HB-1529**

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 1:28:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha 'aina kakou!

Mahalo to the Water and Land Committee for providing and facilitating this space for community engagement through public testimony.

My name is Keomailani Hanapi Hirata, a keiki o ka 'aina o Molokai and I am requesting to testify remotely via ZOOM in support of HB1529 relating to Burial Councils.

Please email me the ZOOM link for me to participate and give my testimony remotely.

Email: kahenawai3@yahoo.com

Mahalo,

Keomailani Hanapi Hirata

**HB-1529**

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 7:41:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2024 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zhantell Lindo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1529.

As a Molokai native I understand and have witnessed the importance of our molokai Burial Council. I also see significant negative impacts it has caused when the council is unable to weigh in or provide oversight on critical issues because of a lack of quorum or inability to convene. Becuase two of the term-out of two of our Molokai members, our burial council has been almost non-functional. At present the council has only one member which make acheiving quorum impossbile.

I support this measure because considering the challenges with timelines of appointments and recruitment, it is more beneficial to the State, our communities, and the kupuna to keep long-term holdovers and maintain an operable council than one that is defunct for years at a time.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB1529. I appreciate your time and consideration.

with aloha

Zhantell Dudoit Lindo