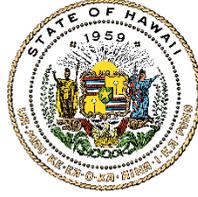


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**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**

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, February 20, 2024  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 571  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF KAUAI/NIIHAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
JOHNETTE KAHALEKAI FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2027.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 571, nominating Ms. Johnette Kahalekai to the Island Burial Council, Island of Kauai/Niihau, expiring June 30, 2027.**

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The Councils determine whether to preserve in place or relocate previously identified native Hawaiian burials site, recognize lineal and cultural descendants, and provide counsel and advise to the Department. With the exception of the Moloka'i Island Burial Council, the island burial councils consist of no more than nine members, of which six representatives shall represent a specific geographic area, and no more than three shall be representatives of development and large landowner interests. Ms. Kahalekai is seeking to represent the Hamakua geographic area.

Ms. Kahalekai currently works in Poipu and will serve as the Lihue representative. Ms. Kahalekai previously served on the Kauai Island Burial Council for eight years and is seeking to return after a break in service. She is a musician and a practitioner in Ho'oponopono, La'au Lapaau, Lomilomi, and Kahuna Ha. Ms. Kahalekai is also ordained in the Church of Universal Light.

She is a graduate of Kauai High School and has a certificate in Construction Tech from Kauai Community College. She currently works at Merriman's in Poipu, officiant for weddings, musician, and Ho'oponopono practitioner.

**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

**LAURA H.E. KAAKUA**  
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

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Kahalekai's knowledge and unique lived perspective informs the deliberations of the Kauai Island Burial Council until June 30, 2027.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this nominee.