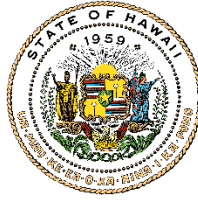


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
**RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE**  
FIRST DEPUTY  
**CIARA W.K. KAHANE**  
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

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

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Thursday, March 6, 2025  
1:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 669  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL  
COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O'AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
KEKAMAMAKOAAKAILIHOU CACERES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2029.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 669, nominating Mr. Kekamamakoakailihou Caceres to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, expiring June 30, 2029.**

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. Mr. Caceres is seeking to represent the Wai'anae geographic area.

Mr. Caceres has direct genealogical ties to the Kona, 'Ewa, and Wai'anae districts and is professionally and personally dedicated to the protection, repatriation, and reinterment of iwi kūpuna. Since the age of thirteen, he has been a recognized descendant on numerous projects across the island of O'ahu, providing him with experience in the processes to protect native Hawaiian burials.

Mr. Caceres' professional expertise as a cultural monitor and co-principal consultant at 'Ohana Kūpono Consulting Inc. has allowed him to be proactive and well-versed in iwi protection measures, enforcement

of archaeological monitoring and mitigation plans, and be an advocate for iwi kūpuna. He is an active member of Hui Iwikūamo‘o, perpetuating the efforts of Hui Mālama i Nā Iwi Kūpuna o Hawai‘i Nei in national and international repatriation of iwi kūpuna and moepū.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Caceres’ professional experiences and personal dedication to the protection of iwi will reflect in the deliberations of the O‘ahu Island Burial Council until June 30, 2029.

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

**GM-669**

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 8:18:06 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Halealoha Ayau	Testifying for Hui Iwi Kuamo'o successors to Hui Malama I Na Kupuna O Hawai'i Nei	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Committee,

I unequivocally support the confirmation of Makoa Caceres to the O'ahu Island Burial Council. He is a practitioner of iwi kupuna and moepu repatriation and reburial protocol as an alakai. I am his kumu and I have been a practitioner for 35 years. I was one of three authors of Act 306 (Sess. 1990) that amended HRS Chapter 6E section 43 and adding sections 43.5 and 43.6 as well as amending the enforcement sections. In a word, Makoa is genuine. He is in the process of getting his Master's and has regularly been involved in the cultural monitoring of iwi kupuna on projects. He will be a welcomed asset to the OIBC. Please confirm this nominee, ola na iwi, the bones live.

**GM-669**

Submitted on: 3/3/2025 10:34:07 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Kuwada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

My name is Dr. Bryan Kamaoli Kuwada, and I am an associate professor of Hawaiian Studies at UH-Mānoa. I am writing today to offer my full support for Makoa Caceres's membership on the O‘ahu Island Burial Council. I have known Makoa for a few years now, first as a motivated and incisive graduate student in two graduate seminars and then as my graduate research assistant.

In regards to his work ethic, Makoa has consistently gone above and beyond anything asked or required of him in both class and his work for me. His research is always thorough and detailed and his reliability is such that I never have to check his work for me because I know that if I tell him something it will get done.

In regards to his knowledge of iwi kūpuna, he was in my Hawaiian Studies 601: Indigenous Research Methodologies seminar, which was his first course as an MA student, and he created a research methodology in the course based on his knowledge of and work with iwi kūpuna that impressed even the PhD students that were in the course. He is absolutely dedicated to the work of caring for iwi kūpuna and brings a powerful insight into that work as well.

All of that is to say that you could find no finer member for the OIBC than Makoa Caceres. He will be dedicated, he will build pilina, he will be strong, and he will carry out his kuleana.

me ke aloha,  
kamaoli



**GM669**

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O‘AHU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KEKAMAMAKOAAKAILIHOU CACERES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

March 6, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Room Number 224

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM669, which would confirm Kekamamakoakaili Hou Caceres for appointment to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council (OIBC). Mr. Caceres applied for the OIBC through OHA as part of our 2024 IBC recruitment process. After internal vetting of candidates, the top respective candidates for respective IBCs were provided to the full OHA Board of Trustees (BOT) for approval on January 23, 2025. Approved candidates were then submitted to the Office of the Governor on January 28, 2025.

OHA is the constitutionally established body responsible for protecting and promoting the rights of Native Hawaiians.<sup>1</sup> As part of our constitutional and statutory mandate, OHA has been intimately involved with historic preservation related advocacy for decades and is granted specific kuleana under the Hawai‘i Historic Preservation law, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 6E, and implementing regulations.<sup>2</sup> Per HRS 6E-43.5, the Governor must select at least two appointees on each IBC from OHA’s list of nominees.

Mr. Kekamamakoakaili Hou Caceres works professionally as a cultural monitor and is very familiar with the implementation of burial protective measures, enforcement of archaeological monitoring plans, participating in reburials, and interacting with the O‘ahu Island Burial Council. He is a recognized cultural descendant for various projects throughout O‘ahu. He is also a member of Hui Iwi Kuamo‘o, a successor organization to Hui Mālama I Nā Iwi Kūpuna o Hawai‘i Nei, and has been part of various international and national repatriations.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM669, to confirm Kekamamakoakaili Hou Caceres to the OIBC. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> Haw. Const. Art. XII Sec.5

<sup>2</sup> See HRS 6E-3, 43, -43.5, 43.6; and, HAR 13-284-6(c) and HAR 13-275-6(c).

**GM-669**

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 9:46:25 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Taylor	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai chair and committee members,

It is with great honor and aloha that I write in support of the consideration and confirmation of Kekamamakoakaili Hou "Makoa" Caceres to the O'ahu Burial Council, .

As a colleague and friend with a passion for his 'āina, kūpuna, and 'ōhana, there is no one else I can think of who can serve this council better. A proud Hawaiian through and through, Makoa has showcased his dedication not only to Hawai'i's past but also to its future. Having met Makoa during our undergraduate years at UH Hilo, I quickly learned about his persistence, his goals, and even his frustrations. Channeling those frustrations, Makoa has turned them into a driving force for advocacy and change. During his time at UH Hilo, Makoa joined me at the UH Hilo Student Association, where he became Senator of Ka Haka 'Ula o Ke'eliko'ani, College of Hawaiian Language. In this role, he advocated for his fellow students and helped create spaces for dialogue and learning, especially for Native Hawaiian students. Makoa's willingness to fight for those with too quiet of a voice, and now, those whose voices can no longer be heard, is one of the many reasons he is perfect for this role.

Makoa comes from a family that has instilled this passion in him. Both his father, Mana Caceres, and mother, Kalehua Caceres, have dedicated their lives to preserving and perpetuating Hawaiian culture. Makoa, now working full-time and still pursuing his Master's degree, has dedicated his life in recent years fully to iwi kūpuna. As seen in the many projects he is involved with through 'Ohana Kūpono Consulting, his involvement with Mālama Iwi Kūpuna, and even in his thesis for his Master's program, his entire professional and academic career is dedicated to his kūpuna and improving the ways in which their remains are treated. His commitment to these projects demonstrates his deep respect for his ancestors and his unwavering dedication to ensuring their proper care and remembrance.

Unafraid to speak out, dedicated, knowledgeable, and experienced, Makoa embodies the qualities needed for this role. His passion, combined with his extensive experience and cultural knowledge, makes him an exceptional candidate for the Council. Again, it is a great honor to write in support of Makoa's nomination.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,

Michael C. Taylor



**GM-669**

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 10:00:31 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this nomination.



**GM-669**

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 10:22:32 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mana Kaleilani Caceres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Kāko‘o nō au i kēia nomination. When dealing with people who claim to speak on behalf of iwi kupuna, I ask myself one question... would I trust this person to care for my own iwi? Absolutely.

ola nā iwi,

Mana Kaleilani Cáceres

**GM-669**

Submitted on: 3/5/2025 12:07:49 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/6/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy Caceres	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ma luna o ke aloha ‘ohana mau,

Welina mai me ke aloha iā kākou a pau:

I have the distinct honor and responsibility of being this candidate’s makuahine.

I strongly support his confirmation to the O‘ahu Island Burial Council, Moku ‘o Wai‘anae as KekamamakoaaKa‘ilihou is well-prepared, trained and uniquely suited to this position.

Makoa, as we affectionately refer to him, has spent more than half his life observing, learning and testifying before the O‘ahu Island Burial Council. Moreover, he has been mentored and trained by his father, Mana Kaleilani Caceres, who served on the O‘ahu Island Burial Council as the ‘Ewa Moku representative for eight years. This role is a legacy of kuleana to kūpuna.

Makoa has also spent more than half of his life in direct service to iwi kūpuna through ceremonial practices of mālama iwi. He has the duty to follow the training of our Kumu Edward Halealoha Ayau in the traditions of his Kumu Edward Lavon Huihui Kanahale and Pualani Kanahale Kanaka‘ole. In this way, Makoa has the responsibility to uphold the mo‘okū‘auhau of his ‘ike and his mālama iwi kūpuna practices. As a member of Hui Iwi Kuamo‘o, Makoa’s mālama iwi kūpuna advocacy extends to both domestic and international repatriation. He also actively engages communities across the pae‘āina as a member of a team of trainers helping to prepare ‘Ōiwi families to take on the ceremonial responsibilities of caring for iwi kūpuna.

Makoa was introduced to field work at the age of 14 and has spent more than a decade learning to expand his practice of mālama iwi kūpuna within the context of active subsurface disturbance and construction activities as a cultural monitor. This allows him to challenge the dominant discourse of those who seek to remove kūpuna from their graves.

While I may think the world of my son, his extensive experience speaks for itself. He has been intentionally raised and trained to take on the kuleana of the care of iwi kūpuna in the multi-dimensional aspects that are necessary to preserve the moeloa of our kūpuna.

Ola Nā Iwi,

na Kalehua Kamohali‘i Caceres

