

**GM-676**

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha ‘āina kākou,

My name is Keomailani Hanapi Hirata, and I am a kupa‘āina raised within the Ahupua‘a o Ahaino, where my ‘Ohana can trace our ‘āina genealogy to time immemorial. I am an invested stakeholder in place-based cultural resource preservation for my island home, Molokai. I do not consider myself a leader, I am a simple and humble educator. I am in strong support of Dane Maxwell to the Maui and Lana‘i Island Burial Council. His commitment to the protection and respect of iwi kūpuna and our cultural heritage comes from his lived experiences of mālama i nā iwi kūpuna.

Dane Maxwell has consistently demonstrated a deep understanding of and reverence for Hawaiian cultural practices, particularly in matters concerning burial sites and the preservation of sacred lands. His work reflects a genuine commitment to upholding the values of aloha ‘āina and the principles of mālama i nā kūpuna. Through his efforts, he has shown an unwavering dedication to ensuring that the voices of the Hawaiian community are heard and respected in decisions that impact our cultural resources.

In my interactions with Dane, I have observed his ability to navigate complex cultural and historical contexts with sensitivity and integrity. He has consistently sought guidance from cultural elders, and cultural community members to ensure that his actions align with the values and protocols of our ancestors. His collaborative approach and willingness to listen have earned him the trust and respect of many within the Hawaiian community.

Dane’s contributions to the preservation of burial sites and cultural landscapes have been invaluable. He has worked tirelessly to advocate for the protection of iwi kūpuna, ensuring that their resting places are treated with the dignity and respect they deserve. His efforts have not only honored our ancestors but have also strengthened the connection between our community and our cultural heritage.

I firmly believe that individuals like Dane Maxwell are essential to the ongoing work of preserving and perpetuating Hawaiian culture. His dedication, knowledge, and respect for our traditions make him a valuable ally in the efforts to protect our sacred sites and uphold the rights of our kūpuna. His leadership and commitment are vital to ensuring that our cultural heritage is preserved for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,  
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata