



GM679

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MAUI, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, BENNADETTE DUMAN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 1, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Room Number 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM679, which would confirm Bennadette Duman for appointment to the Maui Lana‘i Islands Burial Council (MLIBC). Ms. Duman applied for the MLIBC 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.¹ 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.² Per HRS 6E-43.5, the Governor must select at least two appointees on each IBC from OHA’s list of nominees.

Ms. Bennadette Duman currently serves as the Education Specialist & Hawaiian Community Liaison at Haleakalā National Park. In this work, she frequently assists with consultation requirements for the National Historic Preservation Act that the National Park Service (NPS) must comply with for their various programs and project improvements. She regularly trains and educates NPS staff, interns, and volunteers on Hawaiian culture, language, and history. Ms. Duman is from Lahaina, and her grandmother co-founded Queen Keōpūolani’s tomb at Waiola Church. She also currently serves as the President of the Liholani Village Home Owners Association.

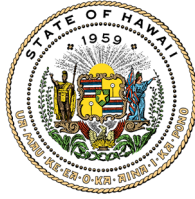
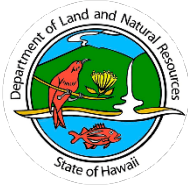
For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM679, to confirm Bennadette Duman to the MLIBC. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Haw. Const. Art. XII Sec.5

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

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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DAWN N.S. CHANG
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the Senate Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 679
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL
COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MAUI AND LĀNA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
BENNADETTE DUMAN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2029.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 679, nominating Ms. Bennadette Duman to the Island Burial Council, Island of Maui and Lāna'i, 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. Ms. Duman is seeking to represent the Lāhainā geographic area.

Bennadette Duman is a native of Lāhaina where she raised assisting her grandmother in caring for iwi kupuna at Waine'e Cemetery and gained generational knowledge of cultural practice, protocol, and respect for iwi. Ms. Duman currently serves as a liaison at Haleakalā National Park, where her role has given her valuable experience with cultural resource management and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. She provides training to staff members, volunteers, and partners on Hawaiian culture, language, and history. Ms. Duman's experiences combine cultural knowledge, awareness, and legal frameworks and highlights her dedication to ensuring that appropriate cultural practices are upheld in the management of historic sites and the protection of iwi kupuna.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Duman's dedication to iwi, 'āina, wahi kupuna, and the community offers valuable perspectives to the Maui and Lana'i Island Burial Council until June 30, 2029.

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

GM-679

Submitted on: 3/19/2025 7:42:01 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/27/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support, with her experience in NPS she actively works with native hawaiian assisting in section 106 matters.

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Submitted on: 3/26/2025 6:56:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/1/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trey Whitaker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Trey Whitaker. I live in Kihei. I met Bennadette ‘Honeygirl’ Duman while volunteering as a trail steward at Haleakala National Park. Park volunteers receive training on many different topics, including Hawaiian history and culture. Not only did I learn a great deal from Bennadette, but her insight and passion for these topics sparked in me a desire to learn more. I often share what I've learned from her with park visitors, family, and friends. Whenever I see 'Honeygirl' at the park, I tap into her extensive knowledge, and she has always been happy to share and educate me further. Whether in the park or during her outreach activities, Bennadette is always acting as a passionate advocate for all facets of Hawaiian culture. She is an extraordinary candidate for this council and has my highest endorsement.

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Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:58:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/1/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keomailani Hanapi Hirata	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I offer my support for Bennadette Kaehuokalani Duman to the Maui/Lana‘i Burial Council.

What stands out most is her willingness to step forward in service to this sacred kuleana (responsibility) despite the immense weight of this role and her humility in recognizing that this work requires continuous learning.

While some may assume they know all there is to know, her willingness to listen, learn, and grow in this role demonstrates her integrity. She understands and knows the importance to seek guidance from kūpuna, cultural practitioners, and lineal descendants to make informed, pono decisions.

She recognizes that protecting burial sites is not just about the past, it's about ensuring future generations inherit an unbroken connection to their heritage.

Bennadette is grounded in aloha ‘āina (love for the land), open to wisdom, and steadfast in their resolve to protect what cannot be replaced.

Mahalo