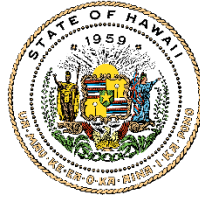


**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**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

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

**Before the Senate Committee on  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Thursday, April 10, 2025  
1:00 PM**

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

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 686  
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND  
BURIAL COUNCIL - ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
SHANTEL FREEMAN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 686, nominating Ms. Shantel Kawahineu'i Freeman to the Island Burial Council, Island of Hawai'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. Freeman is seeking to represent the Puna geographic area.

Shantel Freeman has been a life-long practitioner of native Hawaiian cultural practices and ancestral stewardship. Her personal experiences in the generational kuleana of her family in preparing and protecting iwi kupuna in Waipi'o Valley and Pauka'a provided her with a sense of deep responsibility in upholding traditional practice and protocol. With genealogical ties to Moku o Keawe, Ms. Freeman currently resides in the geographic area she seeks to represent.

Ms. Freeman currently works in community health and education at Hui Mālama Ola Nā 'Ōiwi. Through her work, she has demonstrated her kuleana and commitment to working with the community to provide cultural education, advocacy, and research.

**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

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Freeman's cultural expertise and community-based advocacy informs the deliberations of the Hawaii Island Burial Council until June 30, 2029.

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