

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 763
SUBMITTING FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND
BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLANDS OF KAUA'I AND NI'HAU, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,
CHADLEY SCHIMMELFENNIG, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 763, nominating Mr. Chadley Schimmelfennig to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kauai and Niihau, 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. Schimmelfennig is seeking to represent the Koloa geographic area.

Mr. Schimmelfennig has direct genealogical connections to the Koloa region through his family lines, tracing his lineage in the area back to the 1400s, and his 'ohana have remained a part of that community for generations and many of his kūpuna are buried in the region, reflecting his relationship with the 'āina and its ancestral places. He has served as a caretaker of heiau and other sacred sites throughout the Koloa Po'ipū area. Mr. Schimmelfennig was raised with the knowledge of traditional burial practices, and has been taught to identify and care for iwi kūpuna, actively engaging in the kuleana of site protection and reinterment. His understanding of protocol and his humility in seeking guidance from kupuna and cultural practitioners further exemplifies his connection to the community.

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

In addition to his cultural and genealogical qualifications, Mr. Schimmelfennig has experience working within Native Hawaiian organizations in leadership roles. He served as Executive Director of Kawaikini New Century Public Charter School, where he oversaw educational programming rooted in Hawaiian culture and values. He has also worked as a teacher and vice principal in the DOE system, integrating culturally responsive learning, and partnered with the Office of Hawaiian Education to implement the Nā Hopena A‘o (HĀ) framework.

Mr. Schimmelfennig’s affiliations also include longstanding membership in the Royal Order of Kamehameha I, Kaumuali‘i Chapter, where he serves as a Kahuna Kuhikuhi pu‘uone, and he chairs the Kamalo‘ula Heiau Restoration Project. His participation in various hui like Hui Mālama o Kaneioulouma and Hui Mālama Loko I‘a demonstrate his sustained commitment to mālama ‘āina and community-based cultural restoration work.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Mr. Schimmelfennig’s lived experiences, cultural foundation, and leadership capacity will serve as a voice of descendants to protect iwi kupuna with dignity and contribute culturally appropriate decisions to the Kauai Niihau Islands Burial Council until June 30, 2029.

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

GM-763

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 7:52:47 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chucky boy chock	Testifying for Kauai Museum	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As Executive Director of Kauai Museum and Member of NAGPRA Native Americans Graves Protection and Repatriation Act and in compliance with the National Museum of Health and Medicine, we are in absolute support of Chadley Schimmelfennig for the Burial Council. He is a kanaka that is fully engaged and committed to preserving our culture and traditions and understands the importance of our iwi kupuna! mahalo nui for your vote of confidence and aloha...iesu pu chucky boy chock



ROYAL ORDER OF KAMEHAMEHA I
KAUMUALII CHAPTER NO 3
PO BOX 1381 • LIHUE HAWAII 96766

April 8, 2025

Re: Testimony in Support of Chadley Schimmelfennig (GM763) appointment to Kaua'i/Ni'ihau Island Burial Council

Aloha kākou,

I am writing this letter to support the confirmation to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau, Gubernatorial Nominee, CHADLEY SCHIMMELFENNIG, for a term to expire 06-30-2029.

Mr. Schimmelfennig is a Native Hawaiian with strong cultural roots and ties to the local Kaua'i community, specifically the Koloa area. He is an educator and cultural practitioner who has served on various community groups and has been active in the local Hawaiian community.

The expertise that Mr. Schimmelfennig will bring to his role as member of the Burial Council will be his deep ties to the Koloa area, where his family has lived for many generations, as well as his cultural knowledge and expertise in land and historical preservation. He has been active in many restoration projects both on our island and across the pae 'āina. And he brings strong hands-on experience from these other projects. He is an advocate for Native Hawaiian rights and the preservation of Hawaiian traditions. He will be a strong advocate to ensure the respectful treatment of our 'iwi kupuna.

A current example of Mr. Schimmelfennig's leadership is as chair of the Royal Order's committee overseeing the restoration of our cultural preserve area at Kamalou'ula at Ho'ai. In this his leadership has been crucial in restoring this important heritage site for our people.

In short, Chadley Schimmelfennig will be an excellent representative to help our island participate in the important decision-making that the Burial Council is tasked with. We strongly support his nomination and ask that you vote to confirm his appointment.

Respectfully,

Leon Gonsalves

Alii Aimoku

The Royal Order of Kamehameha I
Chapter No. 3, "Kaumualii"

GM-763

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 9:54:31 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Cobb-Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I write in support of confirmation of CHADLEY SCHIMMELFENNIG to the Island Burial Council, Islands of Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. Chad is a distinguished member of the Royal Order of Kamehameha, a teacher, a cultural practitioner and more importantly a level Headed Hawaiian well respected in the community. I believe Chad will be a valuable addition to guide discussion and follow policy while advocating for Pono practices with in the process.

In my capacity as a project Manager for KS Kauai I have worked with Chad in various roles, as a funded partner while he was Poo Kumu of Kawaikini, and as a valued volunteer in Makahiki Events with DOE schools across Kauai. I believe Chad can be a great example of informed cultural leadership working with in the system we know as the State of Hawaii.

I strongly support the confirmation of Chad.

Sincerely,

Erin Cobb-Adams

Kamehameha Schools

Project Manager, Community Engagement and Support Services

ercobbad@ksbe.edu

808-634-4340

GM-763

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 10:56:47 AM

Testimony for HWN on 4/10/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimo Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the confirmation of Mr. Chadley Schimmelfennig to the Burial Council for Kaua'i/Ni'ihau islands. Mr. Schimmelfennig is a Native Hawaiian who has demonstrated his commitment to preserving and perpetuating our cultural practices and will be a diligent advocate for the 'iwi kupuna in this role. Please confirm him for this important post.

Mahalo,

Kimo Perry