

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 21 2025

RE: GOV. MSG. NOS. 669,
670, 671

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred Governor's Message Nos. 669, 670, and 671, submitting for study and consideration the nominations of:

ISLAND BURIAL COUNCIL, ISLAND OF O'AHU

G.M. No. 669	KEKAMAMAKOAAKAILIHOU CACERES, for a term to expire 06-30-2029;
G.M. No. 670	JULIAN AKO, for a term to expire 06-30-2029; and
G.M. No. 671	CHARISH MILLER, for a term to expire 06-30-2029,

begs leave to report as follows:

Your Committee reviewed the personal histories, resumes, and statements submitted by Kekamamakoakailihou Caceres, Julian Ako, and Charish Miller for service on the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu.

KEKAMAMAKOAAKAILIHOU CACERES

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Kekamamakoakailihou Caceres from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hui Iwi Kuamo'o, and five individuals.



Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Caceres' experience, knowledge, and proven leadership qualify him for appointment to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, as a member representing the geographic region of Waianae. Mr. Caceres is currently pursuing his Master's degree in Hawaiian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He has professional expertise as a cultural monitor and co-principal consultant at 'Ohana Kūpono Consulting, Inc., which has allowed him to be proactive and well-versed in iwi protection measures and enforcement of archeological monitoring and mitigation plans. Mr. Caceres has direct genealogical ties to the Kona, Ewa, and Waianae districts of O'ahu and has been professionally and personally dedicated to the protection, repatriation, and reinterment of iwi kupuna since the age of thirteen. He has a thorough understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Island Burial Council members, and his academic pursuits and unique perspective as a member of his generation will be assets to the Council. Your Committee therefore recommends that Kekamamakoakailihou Caceres be appointed to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, based on his cultural expertise, lifelong dedication to protecting and promoting indigeneity, and deep understanding of the past and future challenges faced by stewards of sacred ancestral sites.

JULIAN AKO

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Julian Ako from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Prince Kuhio Hawaiian Civic Club, Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, Kuini Pi'olani Hawaiian Civic Club, and five individuals.

Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Mr. Ako's experience, knowledge, and proven leadership qualify him for appointment to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, as a member representing the geographic region of Kona. Mr. Ako is a retired Administrator and Principal of Kamehameha Schools and former Director of the Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu. He has served on various boards and organizations, including the Hawaiian Historical Society, Ahahui 'Olelo Hawai'i, Pihina Nā Mamo Program, and Harvard University Principals Center National Advisory Board. Mr. Ako has direct experience with the State's burial processes and administrative rules as he has completed the burial registration process for sites on Kauai. In addition to his



career as an educator and administrator and his work in historical advocacy, Mr. Ako is noted for his contributions to Hawaiian language, music, and cultural preservation. Mr. Ako is a recognized cultural descendant and lifelong resident of Kona moku with a strong connection to the land and people of the district he seeks to represent. He has a thorough understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Island Burial Council members and his humility, wisdom, and steadfast commitment to cultural integrity will be assets to the Council. Your Committee therefore recommends that Julian Ako be appointed to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, based on his profound legacy of service, deep engagement in various Hawaiian organizations, and diverse advocacy work.

CHARISH MILLER

Your Committee received testimony in support of the nomination for the appointment of Charish Miller from the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

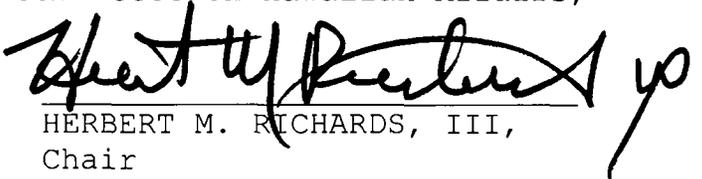
Upon review of the testimony, your Committee finds that Ms. Miller's experience, knowledge, and proven leadership qualify her for appointment to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, as a member representing the geographic region of Koolau-poko. Ms. Miller is the co-founder and President of Aloha Mortuary. She has specialized in disinterment under license and upholds both professional and cultural values in her work. With six years of experience working with burial sites and ancestral remains in the mortuary setting, Ms. Miller has ensured that iwi and their mana are treated with the utmost respect. She has experience navigating both cultural protocols and legal protections to advocate for the preservation of iwi kupuna. Ms. Miller is also a founding board member of Alaula Life Foundation Hawai'i, a nonprofit organization focused on education. Her upbringing was deeply rooted in Hawaiian culture, she has genealogical ties to Kuliouou and Waimanalo in the Koolau-poko district, and her family actively strives for a legacy of stewardship in these areas. Ms. Miller has a thorough understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Island Burial Council members and her cultural grounding, specialization in mortuary practices, and commitment to the respectful treatment of iwi kupuna will be assets to the Council. Your Committee therefore recommends that Charish Miller be appointed to the Island Burial Council, Island of O'ahu, based



on her professionalism, unique sensitivity to the handling of human remains in the context of Hawaiian tradition, and deep understanding of the cultural and legal processes surrounding burial practices in the State.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committee on Hawaiian Affairs that are attached to this report, your Committee, after full consideration of the background, experience, and qualifications of the nominees, has found the nominees to be qualified for the positions to which nominated and recommends that the Senate advise and consent to the nominations.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs,


HERBERT M. RICHARDS, III,
Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs
HWN
Advise and Consent

Governor's Message No.:* 669	Committee Referral: HWN	Date: 3/6/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its decision				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Advise and Consent 2340 <input type="checkbox"/> Not Advise and Consent 2345				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (C)	/			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (VC)	/			
IHARA, Jr., Les				/
KEOHOKALOLE, Jarrett	/			
DECORTE, Samantha	/			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one Governor's Message per Record of Votes

