



## GM678

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

Senate Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

April 1, 2025

1:00 p.m.

Room Number 224

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** GM678, which would confirm Caroline Harman for appointment to the Maui Lana‘i Island Burial Council (MLIBC). Ms. Hartman 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Per HRS 6E-43.5, the Governor must select at least two appointees on each IBC from OHA’s list of nominees.

Ms. Carline Hartman has been involved with protecting her ‘ohana burials on lands in Kipahulu. She learned traditional medicine practices from her great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother, who were all kahuna of la‘au lapa‘au. Her ‘ohana has long ties to Hana, with many generations living in east Maui back to the times of the Kingdom and before. Ms. Hartman currently works as an Educational Assistant at Kihei Charter School. She is also a volunteer for the Pacific Whale Foundation.

For these reasons, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** GM678, to confirm Caroline Hartman to the MLIBC. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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<sup>1</sup> Haw. Const. Art. XII Sec.5

<sup>2</sup> 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**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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**RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
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 678  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE ISLAND BURIAL  
COUNCIL, ISLAND OF MAUI AND LĀNA'I, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE,  
CAROLINE HARTMAN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6/30/2029.**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports Governor's Message 678, nominating Ms. Caroline Hartman 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. Hartman is seeking to represent the Hāna geographic area on Maui.

Caroline Hartman is a native of Kīpahulu and comes from a long lineage of East Maui families with genealogical ties to that 'āina. Ms. Hartman carries the kuleana to her kūpuna with a sense of respect, service, and aloha, which reflects in her dedication to both cultural preservation and community well-being. She has demonstrated this commitment in the past through active protection and stewardship of iwi kupuna in Kīpahulu. Ms. Hartman was raised to carry on her family heritage of traditional healing, which she inherited from her mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Her experiences demonstrate a strong background, willingness to serve her community, and appropriate cultural grounding needed to navigate the sensitive issues of burial council responsibilities.

Senate confirmation will ensure that Ms. Hartman's dedication, cultural awareness, and respect for iwi kupuna will shape the decisions of the Maui and Lānaʻi Island Burial Council until June 30, 2029.

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