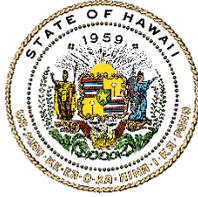


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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**

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 HAWAII, 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 Hawaii, expiring June 30, 2029.

The Island Burial Councils are established under Section 6E-43.5, Hawaii 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. KAHAHANE
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.